

To: BELLSHILL & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: GOOD NEWS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 6 October 2004	Ref: PJ/LMcM/JP

1. INTRODUCTION

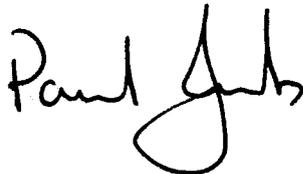
The purpose of this report is to advise committee of current 'good news' stories within the department.

2. GOOD NEWS ITEMS

A list of the current 'good news' stories is attached as appendix 1.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That members note the report.



There are no background papers relevant to this report

Appendix 1

1. DEPARTMENTAL

1.1 Three sections achieve Chartermark success

Three sections within the department have recently been successful in their quest for Chartermark. Following a formal visit by assessors from SGS, the School Means Service in Catering became the first of its kind in Scotland to achieve the award. The full Libraries & Information section and the Community Arts team within Creative Services were also recommended for the award.

2. COUNTRYSIDE & LANDSCAPE

2.2 Green fingered residents celebrate in style at the Garden Awards

The winners of this year's Garden Awards, which recognise the work of green fingered residents across North Lanarkshire, were announced at an awards ceremony on 29 September. Hundreds of entries were received for the awards, which were sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage, B&Q and Landscapes and Contracts Ltd.

The winners in the seven categories came from Auchinlock, Chapelhall, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld, Dullatur, Kilsyth, Motherwell and Uddingston. For the second year in a row, the coveted Main Competition category was won by Ian and Margaret Morton from Kilsyth.

3. SPORT & RECREATION

3.1 Sportscotland awards over £133,000 to projects in North Lanarkshire

Three projects in North Lanarkshire have received funding of £133,244 from the Sportscotland Lottery Fund.

The kids' gym project (Activ8) received an award of £38,074, which will contribute towards the cost of buying specialised equipment and the refurbishment of leisure centres in the area. This will provide children aged 7-16 with the opportunity to participate in structured activities to increase physical activity and improve health. It is envisaged the combination of the new gyms, together with partnership work with Education, will have a meaningful impact in addressing child obesity issues in North Lanarkshire.

In addition, a project to provide Access NL cards to five homeless units in North Lanarkshire was awarded £67,500 over two years. The scheme is designed to provide the residents with the opportunity to increase the frequency of their sport and physical activity and to improve their health. The project has been launched alongside the introduction of Street League in North Lanarkshire.

The third project to receive funding was the Rosehall High School Healthy Lifestyle Project Phase 2, which was awarded £27,290. This was to consolidate the work of the Community Rugby Development project, which had previously been piloted. It uses Tag rugby to encourage physical activity.

4. CREATIVE SERVICES

4.1 Beer Festival is a huge success

Attendance figures for this year's Beer Festival showed an increase of over 70% on those for 2003. On Friday 8 October, 908 people sampled the 'brewer's art', rising to 1,744 on Saturday. This compares to 664 and 1,272 respectively for 2003.

The festival was advertised extensively on Beat 106, in the press, on billboards and on posters. In addition to live music throughout the weekend, the Scotland versus Norway game was also shown live.

4.2 Events team continues to provide support to other local authorities

Following its high profile work with West Lothian Council in August, the events team has been hard at work providing technical and graphic support to East Dunbartonshire Council. The neighbouring authority will be staging its first ever staff awards ceremony on 27 October in Bishopbriggs sports centre.

5. COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

5.1 New Community Learning Strategy launched

The new Community Learning & Development Strategy 2004-2008 was launched at the @home youth centre in Airdrie in October. The strategy ties in closely with North Lanarkshire Partnership's Community Plan theme of learning through life, and has as its key themes:

- To promote personal learning and development
- To build capacity with communities for self-help
- To increase involvement in the democratic process at all levels

5.2 Young film makers show off their talents at premiere

A short animated film called 'The Smartest Card Around', which was produced by a group of young people from across North Lanarkshire, received its premiere screening at Motherwell Theatre on 23 September.

The young filmmakers are part of the North Lanarkshire Young Scot 'Get Animated' project. This was set up to encourage young people to use new technology, as well as to enhance other skills such as teamwork and communication.

The film promotes the new multi functional Young Scot smart card and will be shown in all of the authority's schools and youth clubs. So far, cards have been issued to over 5,000 young people, with a target of 23,000 by March 2005.

5.3 New funding scheme launched for young people's activities

A new funding scheme has been launched by the Community Safety Partnership, which is aimed at increasing the number of services and facilities available for children and young people.

The scheme, which will be co-ordinated by the Community Learning & Development section, is part of the Scottish Executive's Local Action Fund. It is available to community and voluntary organisations, and public sector agencies within North Lanarkshire. The Executive has awarded £358,000 for 2004-2005, and an additional £348,000 for 2005-2006.

The main objectives of the fund are:

- Increasing the number of services and facilities available which provide constructive and relevant activities for young people
- An increased number of young people accessing these facilities
- Young people to have sustained interest and involvement in the activities provided
- A reduction in youth related calls to the police in areas where new crime facilities are located
- A reduction in community perceptions and concerns about youth crime
- An increase in the satisfaction of young people

5.4 Children & Young People staff recognised

The council's Children & Young People team recently hosted an awards ceremony at Motherwell Concert Hall, to celebrate the achievement of those who give their time to work with children and young people. Each of the 200 who attended had completed a training course, ranging from First Steps to Youth Work, to Principles and Practice of Youth Work levels 1 and 2. All were presented with a certificate to recognise their hard work and effort.

6. LIBRARIES & INFORMATION

6.1 New mobile library van for schools

A brand new mobile library van, funded through the Scottish Executive's 'Changing Children's Services' fund, is now in operation in North Lanarkshire. The van will be making fortnightly visits to the 32 local primary schools which don't have a library nearby. It will also visit 10 special needs establishments throughout the area.

Children using the van can borrow from a wide selection of books for all ages and abilities, we well as talking books, CDs and videos. There is also a small selection of educational toys for the use of teachers.

7. CATERING

7.1 New look for Sir Matt Busby sports centre café

The café within the Sir Matt Busby sports centre has been refurbished and reopened on 11 October. It has a complete new look and offers a range of healthy options, mineral waters and coffees under the Kuppas brand.

7.2 Generous catering staff raise over £2,000 for charity

Over 400 catering staff and suppliers attended a charity fundraising night in the Civic Centre on 2 September, raising £2,100. The chosen charities of the catering staff are St Andrew's Hospice, Rachel House and Cancer Research. Each will receive a donation of £700.