

**Frank Ferguson Senior Citizens' Centre, Motherwell Road, Bellshill,  
27 January 2005 at 7 pm.**

**A Meeting of the BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Gorman (Convener); Councillors Burrows, Curran, Lafferty, Lyle, H. McGuigan and Saunders.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Gorman (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Corporate Freedom of Information Officer, Administration Department; Open Spaces and Cemeteries Manager (Area Team Leader), Community Services Department; Head of Accounting Services, Finance Department; Area Housing Manager, Housing and Property Services Department; Quality Improvement Officer, Education Department, and Team Leader, Roads Network (Southern), Routes to Work Manager and Strategic Planning Manager, Planning and Environment Department.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Sergeant Eddie McFadden, Strathclyde Police; Craig Cunningham, Lanarkshire Local Health Care Co-operative, and W. Foy, J. Gilmour, M. MacDonald and R. McCarey, Bellshill and District Community Forum.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Coyle, McCabe and McKeown.

**BUDGET CONSULTATION - SETTING OF THE COUNCIL TAX AND THE GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2005/2006**

1. The Head of Accounting Services provided a presentation on the Council's budget process and (1) referred inter alia to (a) the Council's current three year financial strategy which would form the basis of the budget for 2005/2006 and the level of Council Tax set in North Lanarkshire; (b) the revenue estimates and draft budget proposals which reflected the three year financial plan; (c) the Council's income and expenditure position for 2005/2006 which included proposals for efficiency savings to fund areas of growth in service provision, and (d) the Council meeting scheduled for 10 February 2005 to set spending plans and Council Tax levels for 2005/2006; (2) commented on the financial outlook for 2006/07 and 2007/08, and (3) sought the views of the community representatives on the possible growth priorities and efficiency savings for 2005/06.

Thereon, the Head of Accounting Services responded to questions put by elected members and community representatives.

**Decided:** that the Head of Accounting Services be thanked for his presentation, and that the presentation be noted.

**BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE - MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2004**

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellshill and District Area Committee held on 11 November 2004.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be recommended to the Community Services Committee that King George V Park, Bellshill, be included in the Community Services Department's list of Town Parks, and that the associated measures accorded to the status of Town Park be rolled out as soon as practical, and
- (2) that the terms of the Minute be otherwise noted.

**A PICTURE OF HEALTH**

3. The Convener welcomed to the meeting Mr. Craig Cunningham, General Manager of the Lanarkshire Local Healthcare Co-operative who gave a presentation entitled "A Picture of Health", on the process NHS Lanarkshire is using to engage with individuals, local authorities, organisations, community planning partners and other interested bodies to plan the changes needed in healthcare.

Mr. Cunningham (1) provided statistics for the number of people who had attended out of hours medical services in Lanarkshire between October and December 2004; (2) highlighted the aims and guiding principles of the "Picture of Health" process; (3) commented on the major health issues affecting the people of Lanarkshire; (4) summarised the public's most valued aspects of the Health Service; (5) detailed the current level of care and treatment provided by the Health Service; (6) indicated some of the factors driving change in the Health Service; (7) outlined the impact the changes would have on services currently provided, and (8) intimated that the "Picture of Health" summary document (tabled), while not presenting detailed solutions, had at this stage been presented to enable the opportunities and challenges facing the Health Service to be addressed, and service users/patient representatives to be involved in the planning/re-design of services.

After a question and answer session, the Convener thanked Mr. Cunningham for his informative presentation.

**Decided:** that the presentation be noted.

**ROAD WORKS PROGRAMMES**

4. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the roads, footways, street lighting and structures renewal works undertaken in the Bellshill and District area during 2003/2004, and the intended programme of works for the 2004/2005 financial year; (2) intimating that the growth in financial allocations had enabled the undertaking of a substantial works programme during the financial year 2003/2004, and the planning of activities for the Bellshill and District area for 2004/2005; (3) listing for the Bellshill and District area in (a) Appendix 1 to the report, the programme of works carried out during 2003/2004, the total value of which was £722,500, and (b) Appendix 2 to the report, the proposed programme of works for 2004/2005, the total value of which is £1,299,600, and (4) intimating that, currently, (a) 98% of street lighting faults had been repaired within seven days and would place the Council in equal fourth place in Scotland for performance; (b) 97% of traffic signal faults had been repaired within 48 hours, and (c) third party claims against the Council due to road defects had halved since the introduction in 2001 of a carriageway and pedestrian precinct safety inspection regime.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the achievements in relation to expanding the Asset Renewal Programme and the improved performance of the Road Maintenance Service in the Bellshill and District area be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Environment be invited to provide a presentation on the progress of the Traffic Management proposals for the Bellshill and District area, at the next meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**(1) BELLSHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

5. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Bellshill Community Council held on 15 September, 17 November and 15 December 2004.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minutes be noted.

**(2) NEWARTHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

6. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Newarthill Community Council held on 13 October 2004.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be noted.

**COMMUNITY FORUM - UPDATE**

7. There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2005 by the Director of Community Services (1) advising that the Bellshill and District Community Forum had held its most recent meeting on 11 January 2005, and (2) enclosing as an attachment to the report, the Minute of that meeting.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**GOOD NEWS**

8. There was submitted a report dated 3 December 2004 by the Director of Community Services advising of various "Good News" stories within the Department of Community Services.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**POLICE UPDATE**

9. Sergeant Eddie McFadden, Bellshill "ND" Sub-Division, Strathclyde Police (1) provided the Committee with an oral update on (a) the focus of police activity in the Bellshill and District area, with particular emphasis on domestic house breakings, vehicle crime, youth disorder, breach of the peace, drugs offences, racial incidents, and vandalism, and (b) the operation of the Safer Scotland VI Initiative

undertaken during the run up to the Christmas and New Year period, and the targeting of resources towards the types of crime that traditionally tend to increase over this period, and (2) intimating that North Lanarkshire continued to enjoy relatively low levels of crime across the board, as recently highlighted in The Herald.

Thereon, Sergeant McFadden responded to questions, and the Convener thanked him for his informative update.

**Decided:** that the report be noted.

### **SMALL COMMUNITIES PROJECT**

10. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 September 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 January 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the progress made with development of the Small Communities Programme and the projects proposed within the Bellshill and District area; (2) intimating that a number of proposals for potential projects had been put forward across the whole Council area from a variety of community representatives, groups, individuals and local elected members and that these submissions had been assessed against criteria previously agreed by the Council; (3) indicating that projects had been placed into three categories in terms of their fit with the criteria and ease of implementation, with (a) category 1 being those projects which meet the criteria for Small Communities Projects and could be implemented entirely through the money available from the Small Communities Budget; (b) category 2 being those projects which were considered acceptable projects but as a result of their scale would require additional finance and resources from a range of internal and external partners, and (c) category 3 being those projects which would be more appropriately led and delivered from other funding sources or organisations, but had some scope for contributions to be made towards them from the Small Communities Budget; (4) listing and categorising in the Appendix to the report, an outline of the 13 projects identified within the Bellshill and District area, and (5) informing that the details of each of the proposals will be finalised over the next few months in consultation with the local community groups and organisations prior to implementation.

**Decided:** that the Committee approve and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee

- (1) the categories identified in the report, for prioritising delivery of the proposed projects;
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Environment (a) proceed with the development of the categories 1 and 2 outline projects, listed in the Appendix to the report, in consultation with the local community groups, for delivery in 2005/2006; (b) seek to secure a range of internal and external partners, for projects requiring additional funding and assistance; (c) bring forward a further report on the developed projects, and (d) seek assistance in the delivery of category 3 projects and bring forward a report should it be considered appropriate that funding from the Small Communities Budget be made, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

### **ROUTES TO WORK LIMITED**

11. The Convener proposed that the presentation scheduled to be given by the Routes to Work Manager be continued to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Decided:** that the presentation scheduled to be given by the Routes to Work Manager be continued to the next meeting of the Committee.