

Holytown Community Education Centre, Stevenston Street, Holytown,
2 June 2005 at 7 pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Gorman (Convener); Councillors Burrows, J. Coyle, 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) and Senior Community Learning and Development Worker, Community Services Department; Community Planning/Partnership Officer and Local Regeneration Manager, Chief Executive's Department; Quality Improvement Officer, Education Department; Area Housing Manager, Housing and Property Services Department, and Senior Planning Officer, Planning and Environment Department.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector Black, Strathclyde Police and W. Foy and J. Gilmour, Bellshill and District Community Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe and McKeown.

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE - MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2005

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellshill and District Area Committee held on 24 March 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

REMIT FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 25 MAY 2005 - OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION OF MOSSEND PARK

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 25 May 2005 when that Committee agreed that Mossend Park be awarded Neighbourhood Park Status in the interim and to refer the matter to this Committee for information, there was submitted a report dated 11 April 2005 by the Director of Community Services thereon (1) providing details of the existing town parks within North Lanarkshire; (2) advising (a) that under current criteria, Mossend Park did not fully meet the requirements to be designated as a town park, and (b) that an open space strategy was currently being progressed which aimed to clarify all open space; (3) proposing (a) that assessments of use and conditions be carried out on Mossend Park to provide in-depth information to aid future development proposals, and (b) that the Urban Park Development Team facilitate the establishment of a "Friends of Mossend Park" with representation from local people and groups; (4) intimating that community consultation would be carried out focusing on Mossend Park and its immediate communities, and that local groups, individuals and organisations would be contacted with a view to generating community interest in the regeneration and development

linked to the Park, and (5) recommending that in the interim, Mossend Park be awarded Neighbourhood Park Status.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of Neighbourhood Park Status to Mossend Park be noted, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES - BELLSHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

3. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Bellshill Community Council held on 16 March and 20 April 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be noted.

COMMUNITY FORUM - UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report dated 25 May 2005 by the Director of Community Services (1) advising that the Bellshill and District Community Forum had held its most recent meeting on 19 May 2005, and (2) enclosing as an attachment to the report, the Minute of that meeting.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIES - CONSULTATION EVENTS

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 May 2005 by the Chief Executive (1) informing of the consultation events on the draft Community Engagement Strategy, draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and the draft Integrated Children's Services Plan for North Lanarkshire; (2) intimating that the consultation period extended from mid May 2005 to the end of July 2005; (3) advising that over 700 summary documents had been distributed to the voluntary/community sector and the partner agencies operating within North Lanarkshire; (4) listing details of local consultation events taking place during June 2005, and (5) advising that the finalised strategies will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee in September 2005.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the consultation event for the Bellshill and District Area was scheduled to be held on 14 June 2005 in Belvidere Primary School at 7 pm, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

SMALL COMMUNITIES PROJECTS

6. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2005, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 June 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the progress made on projects relating to the Small Communities programme within the Bellshill and District area; (2) outlining in the Appendix to the report, an update on all projects put forward to date; (3) advising that David Wilson Associates had been appointed Landscape Architects to carry out the design of the projects; (4) intimating that more suggestions and ideas are required from the community for projects in 2006/2007 and that the increased budget for

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2006/2007 will enable a greater number of projects to be delivered, and (5) advising that the project for the refurbishment of the Emma Jay Road/Hattonrigg Road underpass was nearing completion.

Decided: that the progress made on delivering Small Communities Projects in the Bellshill and District Area be noted.

BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

7. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 March 2005, there was submitted a report dated 23 May 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising on the current status of the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan, and in particular the reasons for the delays to the project; (2) outlining the efforts taken to overcome design difficulties and speed up the project; (3) intimating a commitment to complete the Phase 1 works during 2005/2006, and (4) indicating that the brief for the Urban Design/Public Realm Masterplan covering the Town Centre for Bellshill was under preparation, and the upgrading works to the underpass at Emma Jay Road were nearing completion.

Decided:

- (1) that the ongoing status of the design works be noted;
- (2) that the efforts being made to overcome difficulties and move the project to construction stage be noted, and
- (3) that the commitment to complete Phase 1 works of the project in 2005/2006 be noted.

ESTATE BASED INITIATIVE PROPOSALS 2005/2006

8. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 3 June 2004, when it was agreed that the Estate Based Initiative Projects to carry out environmental improvements at sheltered housing complexes in the Bellshill and District area be approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 2005 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) advising that the 2004/2005 budget provision for the Bellshill and District area had not met the total expenditure required to complete landscaping works at all of the previously identified sheltered housing complexes; (2) proposing that the outstanding works be completed and funded from the 2005/2006 budget provision; (3) intimating proposals to (a) carry out further works to enhance the improvements made during 2004/2005, and (b) complete projects in 2005/06; (4) recommending that the balance of funds available on completion of the projects be used to create external bin storage areas at a selection of closes throughout the area, and (5) outlining a proposal to enable car parking facilities for the residents of 72-94 Glenburn Avenue, Newarthill.

Decided:

- (1) that proposals for Estate Based Initiative Projects in the Bellshill and District Area, as outlined in the report be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

HOMELESSNESS AND THE ALLOCATION OF HOUSING

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 2005 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) outlining the Council's position in responding to the needs of homeless people within North Lanarkshire; (2) advising that the Council has a statutory duty to provide accommodation,
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advice and assistance to homeless people; (3) setting out the main implications of the legislation, in particular, the requirement to (a) prepare a homelessness strategy for preventing and alleviating homelessness within North Lanarkshire; (b) provide advice on homelessness and services; (c) provide temporary accommodation for homeless persons; (d) provide permanent accommodation to applicants considered vulnerable and in priority need, and (e) treat homeless persons fairly and equitably in terms of both standards of accommodation and consideration of personal needs; (4) outlining the services provided by the six Tenancy Support Teams created to provide advice, advocacy, information and assistance; (5) providing statistical information highlighting the increased demand for homeless services within North Lanarkshire; (6) intimating that the expansion of homeless duties has impacted on the operations of the Council's allocation policy, and (7) outlining efforts being made to prevent homelessness and support vulnerable clients in the community.

Decided:

- (1) that the increased demand being placed on the Council's resources from homeless applicants be noted, and
- (2) that the efforts being made to prevent homelessness and support vulnerable clients in the community be noted.

GOOD NEWS

10. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2005 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.

SUMMER BREAK - OUT BROCHURE

11. There was submitted a report dated 25 May 2005 by the Director of Community Services advising of the publication of the Department of Community Services Summer Break Out Brochure (tabled) which is a free guide to summer holiday activities for children and young people within North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

POLICE UPDATE

12. Inspector Jane Black, Bellshill "ND" Sub-Division, Strathclyde Police provided the Committee with an oral update on (1) crime within the Bellshill and District area, with particularly emphasis on youth disorder, vandalism, house and garden shed break-ins, car crime and drug misuse, and the measures being taken to counteract crime; (2) the operation of the parental notification scheme, and (3) the progress of the ongoing operation to target premises in relation to the sale of alcohol to people who were under age and under age drinking in general.

Thereon Inspector Black responded to Members' questions.

Decided: that the report be noted.