

To: BELLSHILL & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: GOOD NEWS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 13 th JULY 2005	Ref: LMCM/CR

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.

3.2 That the report be referred to the Area Committees for information.



1. LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION

1.1 Sponsorship

The Libraries & Information section have secured an agreement which will provide them with 50,000 carrier bags free of charge over the next 2 years.

The bags will feature advertisements from sponsors such as Lanarkshire Health Board, Alzheimers Scotland and Volunteer Scotland.

The Libraries & Information section were also provided with advertising space on the bag free of charge and will be featuring their 24/7 services available over the internet as well as mobile and housebound services.

1.2 Major Upgrade to Library Service

Library users throughout North Lanarkshire will benefit from a new upgrade to the service with the advent of 'Ipacs'.

The International Public Access Catalogue has upgraded the search catalogue within libraries and now allows users to access the complete stock throughout North Lanarkshire, create their own reading lists and complete their own renewals.

Previously the service was only available to external users but the upgrade will benefit regular library users who can now place their own reservations and amend their personal details with the push of a button.

2. Community Learning & Development

2.1 The Learning Show

The Community Learning and Development Partnership will be holding The Learning Show – Learning Opportunities in North Lanarkshire, in Motherwell Concert Hall on Tuesday, September 6.

The event will encourage adult learners to experience the wide variety of learning opportunities within the area and over 40 organisations will be in attendance with information on learning and training opportunities.

3. Countryside & Landscape

3.1 The Great Britain Games Special Olympics

The Special Olympics were hosted, this year, by Glasgow with 2500 athletes taking part in 23 sporting activities and competitions. North Lanarkshire Council agreed to host both the sailing and kayaking competitions at Strathclyde Country Park as their contribution to the running of the games in Scotland.

Ten crews of two took part in the sailing event and twenty-four individuals took part in Kayaking over 500 metre and 200 metre courses using the state of the art timing equipment recently installed to upgrade the rowing course to FISA Grade A standard.

Both events were a great success with athletes enjoying excellent weather in the main, in the pleasant surroundings of the park.

3.2 Summer Flower Festival

The Council's annual Summer Flower Festival took place at Viewpark Gardens over the first weekend in June.

The 'Legends of the Pirates' theme was particularly well received by all the younger visitors, who thoroughly enjoyed the huge variety of themed games and activities all through the weekend.

Despite very mixed weather over the four days, visitor numbers were close to last year's total of 15,000, and all exhibitors reported healthy trading figures.

3.3 FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta 2005

Strathclyde Park will host around 3,000 competitors at the world's biggest international rowing event which will see rowers from over 30 countries descend on the park.

The regatta, which takes place from Thursday, September 8, until Sunday, September 11, will see a weekend of world class action on the UK's leading rowing course.

It is anticipated that around 10,000 people will visit the park during the event with an estimated £12million economic impact forecast.

4. Sport & Recreation

4.1 Sir Matt's Successful Quest

Sir Matt Busby Sport Centre has become the latest facility operated by North Lanarkshire Council's Sport & Recreation section to obtain the prestigious Quest quality award. The centre achieved the award with a score of 65%.

4.2 Free Swim Scheme and Dryside Breakout Activities

During the summer school holiday period the sport & recreation undertook the annual initiatives of Free Swimming for under 16s and an extensive programme of dryside activities for those not swim orientated.

Activities included coaching and fun kids clubs involving a range of sports from football to badminton, as well as TOPS programme games and sports.

Almost 70,000 children took advantage of the free swim offer, enhancing its status as a widely supported initiative throughout the authority.

With the introduction of the Activ8 children's equipment in four major sites the accessibility of the programmes were rewarded with almost 2,000 sessions being undertaken within the gym programme. Overall the dryside programme attracted over 8,000 sessions during the six-week programme of activities.

5. Building and Cleansing

5.1 Multi-Media Vehicle Upgrade

The Council have taken delivery of a Multi -Media Information Vehicle after a major upgrading process.

Torton of Telford manufactured the vehicle which has six wall mounted PCs. The computers are installed with educational games which were compiled by staff at Caledonian University, Glasgow.

The vehicle has expanding side pods which enables the floorspace to be doubled when on site, creating a good workspace for teacher and pupils. Eco-Schools will benefit from the educational facility as will community fundays and community projects.