

Newarthill Community Education Centre, High Street, Newarthill,

8 September 2005 at 7 pm.

A Meeting of the BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Gorman (Convener); Councillors Burrows, Curran, Lafferty, McKeown and Saunders.

CHAIR

Councillor Gorman (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Corporate Freedom of Information Officer, Administration Department; Open Spaces and Cemeteries Manager (Area Team Leader) and Customer Services Manager (Cleansing), Community Services Department; Local Regeneration Manager, Chief Executive's Department; Quality Improvement Officer, Education Department; Road Network Operations Manager, Senior Engineer/Officer, Traffic Projects, Development Services Team Leader and Planning Officers, Planning and Environment Department.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector Black, Strathclyde Police and T. Leggate, Bellshill and District Community Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle and McCabe.

WASTE STRATEGY/COLLECTION AND EDUCATION BID

1. The Convener welcomed to the meeting Andy MacKenzie, Customer Services Manager (Cleansing), Department of Community Services who gave a presentation on the Council's Waste Strategy/Collection and Education Bid.

The Customer Services Manager (Cleansing) outlined (1) the reasons driving the recycling initiatives within the authority; (2) the targets set by the Scottish Executive and EU which require to be achieved by local authorities; (3) the waste management activities for 2005/2006; (4) three elements of the waste management strategy, namely, (a) the kerbside recycling programme; (b) the development of civic amenity sites, and (c) the public awareness and education measures taken to advise on the recycling initiatives, which include a mobile interactive multi-media vehicle with Internet capacity, and (5) the spend profile from 2004/2005 to 2019/2020.

Thereon, the Customer Services Manager (Cleansing) responded to Elected Members' and community representatives' questions.

Decided: that the Customer Services Manager (Cleansing) be thanked for his informative presentation, and that the presentation be noted.

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE MINUTE

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Bellshill and District Area Committee held on 2 June 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

COMMUNITY FORUM - UPDATE

3. There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2005 by the Director of Community Services (1) advising that the Bellshill and District Community Forum had held its most recent meeting on 23 August 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

4. There was submitted a report dated 13 July 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.

POLICE UPDATE

5. 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 particular emphasis on youth disorder, vandalism, house break-ins, the illegal use of quad bikes, and the measures being taken to counteract these offences, and (2) the improved performance of Strathclyde Police against statutory performance indicators for the same period in 2004.

Thereon, Inspector Black responded to Members' questions.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SMALL COMMUNITIES PROJECTS

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 June 2005, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 August 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) intimating that more suggestions and ideas were required from the community for projects in 2006/2007 and that the increased budget for 2006/2007 will enable a greater number of projects to be delivered, and (4) indicating that a marketing programme for the Small Communities Fund was currently being developed in order to raise awareness within communities and to publicise the Fund through next year and beyond.

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

NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN - PROGRESS

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 11 November 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of progress made on the North Lanarkshire Local Plan; (2) outlining in Appendix A to the report, a set of criteria for determining both strategic and local development sites; (3) enclosing in Appendix B to the report, a report approved by the Planning and Environment Committee, recommending six urban expansion areas to be the long term priorities for housing development; (4) setting out the Local Plan process of identifying local development sites and the involvement of the Area Committee; (5) informing that a Geographic Information System (GIS) project was being developed to assess the social infrastructure capacity of communities, in terms of facilities such as open spaces and play areas, local shops and community halls; (6) intimating that (a) over 300 Local Plan submissions had been made seeking housing development on 3,500 hectares of land, which was seven times the amount of housing development land currently identified for development, and (b) the options for the Bellshill and District Area will be submitted to the Area Committee meeting in January 2006, and (7) outlining the next stages in the preparation of the consultation draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

8. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 June 2005, there was submitted a report dated 23 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising on the progress of the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan to 31 August 2005 and, in particular, the current status of works for the construction of the roundabout at Gartcosh Walk/Belgrave Street; (2) outlining the efforts being made to overcome difficulties and move the project to construction stage, and (3) intimating a commitment to complete the phase 1 works during 2005/2006.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a special meeting of the Bellshill and District Area Committee be convened on Tuesday, 25 October 2005 at 7 pm in the Bellshill Cultural Centre to consider the unsatisfactory progress made on the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan.

ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2005/2006

9. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 January 2005, there was submitted a report dated 25 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising of the roads, footways, street lighting, structure and traffic renewal works to be undertaken within the Bellshill and District area during 2005/2006; (2) intimating that the current year's Revenue and Capital budget allocations for the Roads and Transportation Service had been maintained at a similar level to the previous year, and would enable a substantial works programme of asset renewal activities to be undertaken during this financial year; (3) listing in Appendix 1 to the report, the intended programme of works for 2005/2006, the total value of which was £1,192,500, and (4) indicating that, currently, (a) 99% of street lighting faults had been repaired within seven days which would place the Council in equal second place in Scotland for performance; (b) 94% of traffic signal faults had been repaired within 48 hours; (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, and (d) regular footway and footpath safety inspections were being introduced to further improve pedestrian safety.

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA – 8 September 2005

Decided: that the achievements in relation to expanding the Asset Renewal Programme and the improved performance of the Roads Maintenance Service in the Bellshill and District area be noted.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener intimated that as a result of the recent review of the structure of the Area Committees James Ledgerwood, Local Regeneration Manager would replace Ken Forbes, Open Spaces and Cemeteries manger as Lead Officer, and thanked Mr. Forbes for all his work with the Area Committee.