

**Bellshill & District Community Forum**  
**Report to Local Area Partnership**  
**November 2008**

**Background**

The Community Forum has held three business meetings since the last LAP:

- 21<sup>st</sup> August
- 18<sup>th</sup> September
- 16<sup>th</sup> October

This paper aims to give LAP members an update on Community Forum activity over the past few months.

**Community Forum Update**

Partnership Event

In September, the Forum participated in an event hosted by the North Lanarkshire Partnership where the 2008-2012 Community Plan was launched.

The Forum will also participate in a forthcoming event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December to contribute to discussions on the development of a partnership agreement between the North Lanarkshire Partnership and the 6 Community Fora, including Bellshill and District.

Visit from Rt. Hon Tom Clarke CBE, MP

Rt. Hon Tom Clarke CBE, MP attended the Forum meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September to find out what the Forum have been doing. He was particularly impressed with the work the Health representatives have been doing to raise awareness of the HEAT targets.

Blue Light Disco

The Blue Light Disco (BLD) continues to be a successful mechanism to provide a safe drug and alcohol environment for young people to have fun. The last BLD on 13<sup>th</sup> September was a success with 78 young people attending. The next BLD is planned for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex and will merge with the successful 'Saturday Sports Scene' event. This will allow the Forum to engage with a wider variety of young people as 'Saturday Sports Scene' has a well-established group of young people participating in the event.

If the venue change works well then the Forum would look to have a quarterly merger with Saturday Sports Scene.

The Forum has also secured £3,500 from the Strathclyde Police Community Safety Partnership Fund to assist with the financial support of the BLD.

Sub-group Progress

The Forum's sub-groups continue to deliver the work of the Forum.

*Health and Inequalities Sub-Group*

- Participated in Suicide Prevention Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and plan to support it again in future years.
- Designed a calendar for 2009 to promote health and other local events/significant dates.

### *Media and PR Sub-Group*

- Bellshill & District Community Forum are giving themselves a face-lift with the development of a new logo to reflect their role as the community's voice within the Community Planning process. Young people aged 11 – 18 from Viewpark, Tannochside, Mossend, Holytown and Bellshill have been invited to participate in a competition to create the new logo.
- CVS North Lanarkshire have agreed to assist the Forum to develop a website.
- The Forum recently submitted articles for inclusion within the next edition of NL News.

### **Issues for Consideration at LAP**

#### Viewpark Glen Regeneration

The Forum appreciates that improvements to the Council-leased part of Viewpark Glen will be delivered through the Viewpark Community Improvement Plan and the Viewpark Glen Woodland Management Plan and welcomed these proposed improvements. However, a number of Viewpark residents participating in the Viewpark Conservation Group would like to see the wider Glen area regenerated to preserve the cultural historic and environmental heritage of the site, and create a larger recreational resource for residents to enjoy. Viewpark residents Tom & Grace McNeil have developed an interpretive display to promote the historic and environmental value of Viewpark Glen, which was on display in Viewpark Library recently.

Viewpark Conservation Group's ideas for regeneration include:

- the development of angling facilities
- improvements to the path network
- removal of the burned-out vehicles and trailers and keeping fly-tipping to a minimum.
- interpretive material at the sites of historic significance e.g. location of stone cists
- interpretive information on the historical significance and importance of the Glen so that local residents can learn about the area.

#### Bellshill Traffic Management System

The Community Forum has been approached by a number of Bellshill residents regarding the recently implemented traffic management system. This information is currently being collated and will be submitted to the LAP by the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### **Future Community Forum Meetings**

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

For further information on the Community Forum, or the content of this report, please contact Walter Baker (Chair) on 01698 745891.