

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
Bellshill Local Area Partnership**

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: VIEWPARK GLEN VIEWPARK
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 07 May 2009	Ref: DPT/16/KG	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on woodland, access and environmental improvement works recently undertaken and proposed at Viewpark Glen both through funding sought and secured from external sources and public bodies SEPA and the Forestry Commission Scotland and through the Local Development Programme of the Council.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2003/4 an access improvement project was undertaken by the then Environmental Projects Team of the Council in conjunction with Conservation and Greening and Central Scotland Forest Trust on the area of open space by Laburnum Road as it passes Banyan Crescent and adjacent to Viewpark Glen. This project was entitled the Lancaster Circuit and resulted in an improved path network for local residents to walk in a safe and attractive environment.
- 2.2 Following on from this successful project, Viewpark Glen was identified by the Conservation and Greening Unit as one of a number of urban woodland areas across North Lanarkshire Council to be subject to a Woodland Audit and subsequent Woodland Management Plan to document the characteristics of the woodland and to detail a range of actions required in order to address the issues identified in pursuit of an improved woodland resource for wildlife and for surrounding communities. The Viewpark Glen Woodland Management Plan was produced by Donald McPhillimy Associates Ltd in 2007, with funding provided by the Forestry Commission Scotland, and detailed a number of suggested actions and works required to improve the environmental quality and community value of Viewpark Glen.
- 2.3 In 2008, Viewpark Glen was identified by Strathclyde Police as an area of concentrated anti-social behaviour activity, and was subsequently promoted as an area for Tasking and Coordinating focus. A Community Improvement Plan for Viewpark Glen has been drawn up in response to this, with input from the Bellshill Local Area Team, North Lanarkshire Council Environmental and Housing Services and Central Scotland Forest Trust

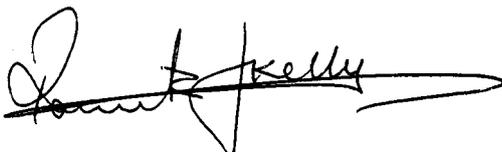
3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Various projects and proposals have recently been implemented or currently in development for the improvement of Viewpark Glen, led primarily by the Council's Conservation and Greening Unit in conjunction with Central Scotland Forest Trust and other partners.

- 3.2 Access and environmental improvements have recently been completed at the southern entrance to Viewpark Glen from Laburnum Road. These works have included resurfacing woodland pathways and creating new path links; felling dangerous trees; thinning dense vegetation where beneficial from the point of community safety and additional screening planting adjacent to the boundary fencing of Righead Industrial Estate. These works have been carried out by contractor MW Groundworks and managed by Conservation and Greening with funding provided by Warbutons and by the Local Development Programme of the Council. These works have resulted in a more inviting entrance into Viewpark Glen.
- 3.3 Central Scotland Forest Trust have recently been successful in a funding application to SEPA for an environmental clean-up project within Viewpark Glen, which suffers particularly from fly-tipping and general littering with subsequent negative effects on the desirability of the woodland as a recreational resource. Tenders for a targeted project in the woodlands to the rear of Laburnum Road were issued by CSFT (with the full support of North Lanarkshire Council and Partners) and the works completed by 31st March 2009. A significant positive impact has resulted with good anecdotal evidence of local benefits such as an increase in the numbers walking in the area. The clean up must however be followed by a change in attitude towards the Glen and an ongoing reduction in litter. The Council and its partners will strive to work with the local community to ensure that the improved environment resulting from these works is sustained.
- 3.4 In addition to these current projects, the Council's Conservation and Greening Section, in conjunction with Central Scotland Forest Trust, are preparing to submit an application to the Forestry Commission's WIAT (Woodlands In and Around Towns) fund in order to implement the recommendations of the Viewpark Glen Woodland Management Plan. It is expected that an announcement on the success or otherwise of the funding application will be made after the judging panel meet on 20th May 2009, likely in early July. If successful, a range of appropriate interventions will be worked up for delivery over financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11, with a maintenance programme extending for a further 4 years. The funding available through the WIAT fund covers only 80% of the projects costs and therefore additional funding would require to be sought from sources such as the Environmental Key Fund or through suitable Council funding streams.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note the above detailed range of initiatives currently being progressed for the improvement of Viewpark Glen, and the role of partnership working in bringing about improvements to the area. The LAP may wish to consider if additional funding should be made available from the Local Development Programme in future to further support regeneration and environmental improvement initiatives.



PATRICK J KELLY
HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Kirsty Gray on 01236 616251

(15 April 2009)