



AGENDA ITEM No.....4.....

Bellshill & District Community Forum
Report to Local Area Partnership
August 2009



Background

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

- Thursday 7th May – Annual General Meeting
- Thursday 21st May
- Thursday 18th June

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

AGM

At their recent Annual General Meeting, Bellshill and District Community Forum elected the following Executive Committee members:

Tom Leggate - Chairperson
Carmen Mair - Secretary
Colin MacFarlane - Treasurer

The Forum can be contacted through the Secretary, Carmen Mair, on 01698 747483 / carmen@ymcabellshill.co.uk.

Bellshill and District Community Forum will continue to meet from 6-8 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the NHS locality Offices, 257 Main Street, Bellshill.

Community Forum Update

Local Area Team/Community Safety Sub Group

The Forum continues to bring a wide and varied range of issues to the Local Area Team and Community Safety Sub Group and is pleased with the progress being made.

Blue Light Disco

The most recent Blue Light Disco (BLD) was held on Saturday 13th June at Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex. The disco was a great success with 240 young people attending. The next disco is on 3rd October.

As well as providing an alternative diversionary activity, young people attending the discos can access information about drugs, alcohol, sexual health and support for young carers from organisations such as Terrence Higgins Trust and Young Carers in a non-threatening safe environment. The planning group are also using the discos to promote healthy eating through the provision of free fruit kebabs.

Although it's early days, Strathclyde Police have seen a reduction in youth disorder on the nights when the discos have been on, so that is a positive result.

The Blue Light Disco Planning Group is continuing to look at developing the Bellshill Blue Light Disco model to address some of the youth disorder/antisocial behaviour issues in the Holytown area. Discussions are taking place about the possibility of using the new 3G pitch at Kier Hardie to start-up youth engagement/diversionary activities at peak disorder times i.e. Friday/Saturday evenings.

Deafblind Awareness Training

The Community Forum participated in a deafblind awareness training course in June to help support deafblind participation in local community planning. The training was delivered by Deafblind Scotland and provided an excellent insight into the issues faced by deafblind people and best to support their participation. All the Forum members who attended would thoroughly recommend the course.

Issues for Consideration at LAP

Banyan Crescent Swing Park/Juniper Road Play Area

Following the removal of the swings at Banyan Crescent, Forum members are keen to see an upgraded facility installed in its place. They feel that a new fit for purpose play area would provide a good local safe playing area for toddlers and social area for young mothers to interact.

In addition, concerns have been raised to the Forum about the age of equipment and maintenance issues at the Juniper Road play area. Whilst the maintenance issues are being addressed, where possible, through the Local Area Team, it is apparent that this play area is in significant need of upgrade.

As there is no funding available through North Lanarkshire Council's capital funding allocation to deliver these projects, the Forum would like to suggest that the projects be considered within the next Local Development Programme. The Forum is also currently investigating the possibility of securing external funding, potentially through the Environmental Key Fund which could complement LDP funding.

As part of this process, it is important to gain the support of the community and we would like to ask local Councillors and Local Area Partnership members to give their support to the development of these projects which are being pursued for the benefit of Viewpark residents.

Road Safety – Neilson Street

The Forum are concerned that the safety of pedestrians, particularly deafblind or disabled pedestrians, crossing the road at both ends of Neilson Street is being compromised due to the blind nature of the corners at both ends and the speed of traffic in this area.

Bellshill Park and Ride

The Forum has concerns that the proposed park and ride will not be of sufficient scale and contribute to further parking problems in the area. The Forum would like to know how many cars could potentially be accommodated on the site of the former British Legion Club?

Future Community Forum Meetings

The dates of the next Community Forum meetings are:

Thursday 20th August

Thursday 17th September

For further information on the Community Forum, or the content of this report, please contact Carmen Mair (Secretary) on 01698 747483.