

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 12 January 2012	Ref: SP/03/12/DOK	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the progress made on the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan

2. Background

2.1 The Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan was approved by North Lanarkshire Council's Planning & Environment (Roads & Transport Sub Committee) in December 2001 as the basis for the regeneration of Bellshill Town Centre.

2.2 Environmental Services will continue to build on the successes that have been achieved to date in implementing the plan. Works as part of the current Action Plan are largely complete for Bellshill.

2.3 The development of a new Town Centre Action Plan Framework for North Lanarkshire's town centres is currently being developed. Work will progress in due course on the framework for the Bellshill area, to guide the growth and change of the town centre, in line with Scottish Government policy and the Council's Corporate Plan. Future partnership meetings advised as this happens and partners involved accordingly. It is anticipated that initial survey work and consultation will begin in the new financial year as part of this process.

3. Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan

3.1 Gateways and Signage: The identified gateway and pedestrian signage schemes are unable to progress at this point, due to budget constraints for this financial year. These schemes have been designed and will be in a position to be progressed as funding becomes available. It is anticipated the 2012-13 budget will be known towards the start of the New Year and at this point it will be possible to determine whether these projects can progress at this stage or another.

3.2 The feature lighting at Bellshill West Parish Church is ongoing, with contractor appointed and on site, delivering the project with involvement of Church representatives in supervision of works. Installation works are anticipated to be complete before Christmas, with a switch on within this period also.

3.3 **Farmgate Square Roundabout:** A contractor has been appointed to carry out construction of this scheme, as approved as part of the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan, which is intended to help slow traffic speeds along Hamilton Road towards the town centre and improve access to Hamilton Road from the adjacent housing areas.

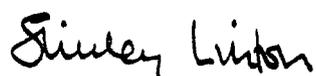
3.4 It is anticipated that the contractor will have begun works by the date of the LAP meeting, constructing the roundabout in a phased manner. A community information event was arranged to advise local residents of proposals and adverts placed in the local

press and letters distributed to those living in the vicinity of the proposals. In spite of a relatively low turnout, comments have been noted. During delivery of the scheme, we will endeavour to take on board comments and keep residents updated on progress.

- 3.5 **Bellshill Town Centre:** Members will note at a previous partnership meeting there was a request for an update on the condition of the footway surfacing carried out as part of the town centre environmental enhancement works. Specific comment was made to the condition of the surfacing on Main Street as part of phase 3 works.
- 3.6 The specific issues raised were in relation to the flaking of slabs and the use of different paving in different areas. In terms of the flaking, this would appear to be due to the effects of the extreme winter weather in previous years, where, due to the layered nature of the stone used, water was able to penetrate the upper, incomplete layers and cause expansion, leading to flaking. This issue has been identified and inspections carried out to identify occurrences and action taken to remove this and it is not anticipated that there will be reoccurrences. In terms of the range of paving types used at different sections of the town centre, this was designed as such, as part of the town centre scheme, to introduce variation and interest in what is, in some areas, a long, uniform street. This design and range of materials was arrived at following consultation processes with a range of stakeholders.
- 3.7 In terms of the condition of the wider environment within the town centre, a number of inspections have taken place, both with community representatives and North Lanarkshire Council officers. These have identified certain issues in the surfacing, many of which have been addressed. The remaining areas are anticipated to be dealt with in the coming months.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan.



SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Denis O'Kane on 01236 632632 (1st December 2011)