

NORTH LANARKSHIRE

COUNCIL

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 16 August 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 and as such there is no allocated budget for this year. A capital bid for Town Centres is under preparation for the five year period from 2013/14 – 2017/18 to secure funding for delivery of future capital projects in each town centre. Future partnership meetings will be advised of the progress of this in relation to Bellshill
- 2.3 The development of new Town Centre Frameworks to guide the management and change for North Lanarkshire's town centres is currently being progressed. These new frameworks will look to address issues including development opportunities; town centre activity; accessibility and movement; design, quality and character; town centre management; business support and marketing and promotion. This process will begin with an initial town centre health check, in line with Scottish Government guidance, to gain an indication of town centre vitality and viability and help inform following steps and content of the framework. A guidance note which sets out the process for preparing the Frameworks can be viewed on the North Lanarkshire Council website at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/framework. Future partnership meetings will be informed of progress and members involved as the framework develops.

3. Farmgate Square Roundabout

- 3.1 Works have now completed to the roundabout at the junction of Hamilton Road with Farmgate Square and Queens Crescent. The contractor began works on site mid February to construct the new roundabout and approach roads at the junction of Hamilton Road with Farmgate Square and Queens Crescent and final elements of the scheme completed by the end of June. The delivery of this roundabout will contribute to the town centre action plan aims, as approved by committee and help reduce traffic speeds along Hamilton Road and traffic movement in the vicinity.

3.2 Following the completion of this scheme, additional works have been identified to the central roundabout island to enhance access arrangements for locally based business requiring abnormal vehicle movements in this area. These works relate to the provision of over run strips on the central island of the roundabout and no further works will be required to the access roads from the adjacent housing areas. The footprint of the roundabout island itself will remain the same and as such, the roundabout will continue to function in the current manner. These works are anticipated to be carried out at the earliest time possible during this financial year.

4. Main Street Paving Issues

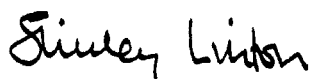
4.1 Partnership members will note that a request was made at the previous partnership meeting for a further report on the issues encountered with paved surfaces in Main Street raising and presenting a trip hazard.

4.2 Following the above matter being raised, the town centre has been inspected and specific areas where paving slabs have risen and become uneven have been identified. Occurrences of this have been concentrated on Main Street in the section between Motherwell Road and Emma Jay Road. Further investigation is ongoing at the moment into the potential causes for the stone movements within this area to provide a longer term remedy to the issue.

4.3 In the interim, in locations where these hazards have been identified, the paving slabs are being removed and tarmac is being used to infill the area on a temporary basis. Subsequent to this and identification of the specific cause, paving slabs will be reinstated within these areas with additional measures allowed to sufficiently accommodate the movement of slabs and prevent reoccurrence.

5. Recommendations

5.1 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 (23rd July 2012)