

AGENDA ITEM No. 10 (b) NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP/AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: TRAFFIC ISSUES IN AND AROUND BELLSHILL MAIN STREET
From: CONVENER OF LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP/AREA COMMITTEE	
Date: 18 October 2012	Ref: HMcG/RM

1. **Purpose of Report**

To stimulate discussion on various matters relating to traffic issues in and around Bellshill Main Street.

2. **Background**

- 2.1. This item is intended to give consideration to aspects of traffic management and pedestrian/motorist safety and convenience around Bellshill Town Centre. It will not deal with the traffic flow analysis and associated simulation models which are ongoing and will be subject of a future report.
- 2.2. It provides an opportunity to discuss practices which disregard parking regulations and orders to the detriment of shoppers, retailers, commerce and social engagement and activity in the town centre.
- 2.3. It invites comment and ideas on how we can help commuters and those working in the town centre to appreciate the need to use the all day parking arrangements which are available and so create space for casual, short term shoppers and users of the town centre facilities.

3. **Proposals**

Some of the issues which have been regularly commented upon are:-

- Despite 'waiting time' parking restrictions within the town centre there appears to be little if any regard for these and consequently vehicles occupy these areas well in excess of the stipulated limits, indeed some are parked there all day. It is legitimate to ask what proactive measures can be adopted to discourage this and what enforcement measures can be taken if this is ignored.
- Parking at St Andrews Square was never envisaged as part of the design plans. Are, or should, parking restrictions be sought for this centre piece of our town centre?
- The public car park opposite Bellshill Cultural Centre is fully occupied from around 0815hrs through until 1745hrs. This situation primarily arises due rail commuters. The 'Park and Ride' at Hamilton Road has sufficient places to accommodate all users. What steps can be taken to encourage take up of this and thus free up more 'casual user' space at John Street car park?

- Almost one year has passed since the collapse of a chimney on Hamilton Road resulted in considerable damage to flats and businesses. Despite repeated representations little has been done to effect restoration. This is contributing to major congestion on this stretch of road, and creates blind spots at Neilson Street/Hamilton Road junction with risks to pedestrians.

Businesses have been adversely affected and there is increasing frustration and disbelief that we are powerless to intervene and secure resolution.

- There is a growing frequency of vehicles being used (24/7) solely for advertising purposes. Prominent examples are at the Bellshill clinic where tanning and taxi services are advertised. Normal road cleaning cannot take place and weeds and rubbish accumulate. Parking restrictions are in place but to no avail. What action can be taken to secure a reasonable outcome in such circumstances?
- Parking on pavements is problematic especially if it results in pedestrians, children, mothers with buggies, and people with disability having to go on to the road to pass. We are also seeing vehicles parking on pavements at corners creating similar problems, and also creating blind spots for other drivers. Vans, lorries and other large vehicles are increasingly parking in residential areas to the detriment of both safety and amenity.
- The Crossgates/Hamilton Road traffic lights sequencing is a major concern. Requests have been made for adjustments but queuing problems persist and the frequency of 'cornering on red' incidents is very worrying.

Some of the above are not specific to Bellshill and the above observations are not exhaustive but hopefully will encourage discussion and identify achievable outcomes which can make Our Partnership area safer and more attractive for all of us.

4. **Recommendation**

That the Local Area Partnership/Area Committee give consideration to these matters.

Convener