

NORTH LANARKSHIRE

COUNCIL

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 23 October 2014	Ref: SP/03/12/SP	

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Bellshill Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

2.1 The Council continues work on Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans for all town centres. A guidance note which sets out the process for preparing these Frameworks can be viewed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/towncentres.

2.2 Public consultation on the finalised draft Bellshill Town Centre Framework and Action Plan will take place during October/ November 14. The documents will be available online through the Planning Consultation hub for a period of 8 weeks.

3. Capital Budget

3.1 As previously reported, no funding was allocated to Bellshill in the Council's Capital Programme for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. Consequently the new Framework and Action Plan for Bellshill will need to identify opportunities for external funding.

4. Town Centre Activities Update

4.1 Overall Bellshill is noted as having the lowest vacancy rate at just over 6% (9 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from April to June 2014 two businesses closed and five opened.

4.2 Footfall figures for the period April to June 2014, as recorded on automated counters located throughout the centre, show an increase in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter January to March 2014, and a year ago.

Town Centre	Total No of Available Units	Total No of Active Businesses	New Business	Business Closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)	Footfall between Q1 14/15 w Q4 13/14	Footfall between Q4 13/14 and Q4 14/15
Airdrie	316*	228	14	3	28(8.8%)	14.2%	4.95%
Bellshill	145	136	5	2	9(6.3%)	12.22%	2.8%
Coatbridge	228	181	2	6	47(20.6%)	13.74%	2.4%
Cumbernauld	215	167	5	6	48(22.3%)	7.68%	-1.06%
Kilsyth	96	84	2	1	12(12.5%)	9.56%	0.09%
Motherwell	278	257	9	5	21(7.5%)	14%	15.99%
Wishaw	302	259	5	4	43(14.9%)	-8.04%	-12.62%
TOTAL:	1580	1372	42	27	208(13.1%)		

Source: TCA – Q1 2014/15 (Sept 2014)

*The vacant Rialto building in Airdrie has had some considerable private investment and has now been renovated into 5 new shop units with flats above.

4.3 'Friday Frolics' took place in July and the Health & Wellbeing and Community based information days was on 8th August.

4.4 The Christmas Light Switch-On event in Coatbridge is programmed for 3:30 – 4:30pm on Thursday 20th November 2014.

5. Recommendation

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

Shirley Linton

**SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Shirley Penman on 01236 632633 (8 September 2014)