

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: FORMATION OF AIRDRIE TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 30 JULY 1996	Ref: DE/MG/REPORT.054	

Introduction

There is no recognised retail traders association or business forum with retail trading links in Airdrie.

In order that the representative views of retailers and town centre traders can be communicated, Town Centre Initiatives Ltd recognises that an organisation or grouping should be formed. It is proposed to establish an Airdrie Town Centre Working Group and this report seeks the approval of North Lanarkshire Council for that process and for the Economic Development Committee to nominate an elected member to participate in group.

The aim of the Town Centre Initiatives Ltd is that the traditional town centres of North Lanarkshire should be managed in a similar way to the operation of modern shopping centres, and that any activity which impacts on the town centre should be coordinated and managed through Town Centre Initiatives Ltd. There are a substantial number of business groups and traders forums across North Lanarkshire who have been very supportive of the two Town Centre Managers but no such grouping exists in Airdrie and to date any consultation concerning traders views has had to be done on a one-to-one basis.

Priority Issues for Airdrie

1. Progression of Airdrie Town Centre Action Plan approved by Monklands District Council in September 1995.
2. To address the perceived car parking problem and need for improved signage.
3. To establish a traders association or offer town centre grouping.
4. Completion of the inner ring road.
5. Develop assistance, training and grant packages for small retailers.
6. Address the CCTV funding problem and upgrade the current system.
7. Consider extending all day Wednesday shopping.
8. Consider provision of assistance in marketing Airdrie as a shopping centre.
9. Improvement of traffic management systems.

Airdrie Town Centre Working Group

It is proposed that the Group should consist of representatives of the following organisations and that it would be served by Town Centre Initiatives Ltd:

1. Elected Member from North Lanarkshire Council
2. Planning Department - Central Division NLC
3. Independent Airdrie Retailer
4. Safeway
5. Boots
6. Police
7. Airdrie Savings Bank
8. Lanarkshire Development Agency
9. Monklands Enterprise Development Company
10. Town Centre Initiatives Ltd

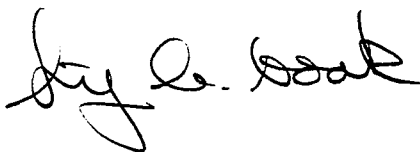
This group would be the lead organisation and consultative body for all activity and projects relating to the town centre, and would assist in formulating policy to address the priority issues for Airdrie as mentioned previously.

Other North Lanarkshire Towns

Town centre forums have already been set up in Bellshill, Motherwell, Kilsyth and Coatbridge and the town centre managers are involved with these groups. A similar forum is planned for Wishaw and will be the subject of a report to the September Committee. Elected member representation will be required for those forums which do not already have it. This will also be the subject of a report at a later committee.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the contents of this report and agrees to nominate an Elected Member to participate in the Airdrie Town Centre Working Group.



S. Cook
Director of Planning and Development