

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: KILSYTH TOWN CENTRE FORUM PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 23 April 1998	Ref: DMcL/REP.398	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Members may recall a previous report to Economic Development Committee indicating that the Kilsyth Chamber of Commerce and Trade had agreed to reform as a Town Centre Forum, working in accordance with the protocol developed and proposed by Town Centre Initiatives Ltd and approved by North Lanarkshire Council. The Town Centre Forum is now in place, and Mr John Rennie a local businessman and Town Centre Initiatives Board member, has become the first Chairman.

2 Progress

- 2.1 Support for the forum is now well established, and it has a clear focus on the challenges facing the town centre in developing a viable future. Several priority issues have been identified. These are -
- a) speedy implementation of the Housing Action Area proposals,
 - b) return of the shop units currently held for decant to being available for permanent let as soon as possible,
 - c) an early resolution to the blight problems caused by the vacant and derelict properties on Main St. Particular priority is attached to the White House (38-42 Main St.) and the adjacent roofless property (44-48 Main St.)
 - d) the condition and maintenance of the pedestrianised area,
 - e) the promotion of the marketing of Kilsyth,
 - f) improved signage for the town centre and its approaches.
- 2.2 With all of the above issues particularly the first three, the need to ensure a timely conclusion to the projects is essential to assist in building confidence among local traders and residents. The Town Centre Manager's role will be to assist in resolving problems that arise and developing solutions and ideas.

3 Project Development

- 3.1 The Forum has played a leading role in the recent formation of a small community based working group to progress a Challenge Fund bid for the introduction of C.C.T.V. monitoring in Kilsyth. This has been a long standing ambition of the local community and the intention to submit a bid marks a very positive step forward. It is anticipated that a programme of action for preparation of the bid will be agreed at the next meeting of the Forum on 6th April. The target submission date is November 1998.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The new Forum is well placed now, to drive forward the regeneration of its town centre. Further reports will be submitted as the work of the Forum progresses.

5 Recommendations

5.1 That members note the content of this report.



Stanley Council Cook
Director of Planning and Development

31 March 1998

For further information, please contact Caitriona McAuley, Senior Marketing & Policy Officer,
Telephone 01236 616279