

Coatbridge Community Forum: March 2014 LAP Report

Background

(Last Forum meeting, dates, times and venue, short introduction)

Coatbridge Community Forum has had several meetings since the last LAP. The report aims to give an outline of some of the business discussed at the meetings and highlight specific issues for consideration at the Local Area Partnership.

Community Forum Update

(Overview of forum activity and actions from recent meetings, forthcoming events or activities, etc)

We have managed to progress our campaign on dog fouling. NLC have agreed to give us material to distribute, highlighting the current problems. We are also looking at purchasing box containers (containing disposable bags) and clipping these onto bins in parks, as a pilot prior to potentially attaching these to bins across part of the town.

We are making progress with NHS Lanarkshire and have agreed to carry out at least one directly health related event per quarter (year). Our Spring event will address the dangers of saturated fats in the diet and the result of excess consumption on arterial walls and the heart itself. Our Summer events will focus on a joint partnership with See Me Scotland and The Youth Forum.

We were informed that there is the need for a third sector representative for the voluntary sector. Three people from the forum expressed an interest and were asked to submit their applications prior to mid-March.

With regard to ongoing and future projects we have secured funding from local companies for the running of the Hawaiian Beach Festival. Lees and Mackinnon Mills are very keen to come on board. A formal meeting has been arranged with NLC to discuss the future of Dunbeth Park (March 18th) and we are still working towards the idea of partnership working with Soundsational to get the library project underway.

Elaine Smith MSP has expressed an interest in working with our community forum and we welcome her participation in assisting with future campaigns including parking problems.

Issues for consideration at LAP

(Issues that have been highlighted and agreed at the wider community forum meeting.)

The Forum is working well with all external bodies on current projects; the library, Dunbeth Park and dog fouling. We hope to sustain a constructive relationship with NLC throughout the coming months.

It was suggested that we have more festivals in Coatbridge each year, other than the two major festivals (St. Partick's and the Hawaiian Beach Party). The Forum will liaise with NLC, NHS and other associations to discover how we can do this and get the local businesses involved in the event more leave the town centre.

Community Forum achievements/new developments

(An opportunity for the Forum to highlight their achievements and positive developments.)

As reported, we are continuing to work in partnership with The Youth Forum, NLC and NHS on current and future campaigns. We have made several developments including the use of internet technology to inform the public of our current activity, the expansion of the forum into the wider community network through contact with ALO's and an integrated partnership with third parties.