

# Motherwell Community Forum

## Report to the Local Area Partnership

### March 2016

#### 1) Introduction

MCF has only met twice since our last report to the LAP, including our Team Builder Event in December and the other our monthly meeting in February last.

#### 2) Update

##### a) Team Builder Event

We are pleased to report that our Team Builder Event held in the Moorings House Hotel on Thursday 8 December last was well attended. We are equally pleased to report that the event was well received by those in attendance. Our Team Builder allowed us to consider the various action points and topics for discussion members highlighted during our review of all aspects of Forum business. A review that is ongoing.

##### i) New Members

Uppermost in our minds is looking at new and innovative ways to reach out to residents across all areas and all groups operating in our area, in an effort to encourage these to join the Forum and/or simply take advantage of the many opportunities open to them to participate in Community Engagement locally.

##### ii) Local Development Plan

One of the key outcomes from our discussions is a consensus among members for the Forum to ensure our Action Plan is in keeping with the aims and objectives set out in the local Community Plan. The team builder highlighted specific topics/issues of concern that members thought should be considered for inclusion in the Local Area Development Plan. Stephen Brown (NLCEO), took a note of these on the night and has since ensured that the various points raised have been considered in discussions when the Local Area Plan was created.

#### 3) Community Engagement

##### a) Local Event

Drawing on Community Engagement Funding, we will organise a local gathering of Forum members and the community to highlight what Community Engagement means in practice and show how by getting involved individuals and groups can work together with the shared goal of making a difference in our area and in so doing help to make Motherwell District and Area a better place to be.

##### b) Town Centre

This innovative approach to engagement has also seen us support the separate Valentine's and Mother's Day events in our Town Centre.

##### c) ASDA

The LAP will recall that the Forum also has made tentative arrangements with ASDA to set up a meet and greet table in the local store where we hope to promote the work of the Forum to local residents and at the same time set out how by their participating in Community Engagement they can help influence the decisions that ultimately shape and determine the public services we all rely on.

d) **Forgewood Community Hub**

Again using funds from the NHS Lanarkshire Community Engagement Fund, and working with colleagues at Forgewood Housing Co-operative we have been able to part fund one of the first events to take place in the soon to be opened Forgewood Community Hub. It difficult not to be impressed by the new Hub, even in its current unfinished state. The Hub together with the proposed construction of the new Family Learning Centre on Talisman Cres are two really fantastic additions to services in the scheme.

e) **Facebook - Community Regeneration Team Standard Survey**

The LAP will recall that we are to host NLC's Community Regeneration Team's standard survey on our facebook page; the aim being to ensure our input into the LAT Action Planning process is enhanced.

f) **Website and vine**

A long time in planning, but with the help of a friend, we have eventually completed the redesign of our website. We will have the new layout uploaded by the end of March 2016 and are working to have the various links and information updated for the re-launch of the website at our AGM in June of this year. We are told, the redesigned layout will work across platforms, that is, tablets, smartphones and the like. Our thanks go to our IT chum Alan for all his work on helping us turn this aim into action. We are currently considering creating a vine to upload to our website and YouTube. The vine will set out what the Forum and Community Engagement is all about.

g) **NHS Lanarkshire Community Engagement Fund**

In this report we have highlighted just a few of the events that we have been able to support and or deliver drawing on funds from the NHS Lanarkshire Community Engagement Fund. These monies allow us to work with the Health Improvement Practitioner and the Motherwell Locality Team to create, support and/or part fund events that might otherwise not take place. We cannot overstate the importance and value of this Fund to help us build capacity in the group and reach out to groups and promote the work of the Forum in areas we might not reach otherwise. The Forum has a long established and successful working relationship with the Health Improvement Team we hope to build on this success in the year ahead.

#### **4) Public Realm Art Works**

The Forum with the support of our NLC engagement officer, remains committed to attract funding to develop public realm art works to the town centre. We will keep the LAP informed of our progress where this initiative is concerned.

#### **5) Local issues for noting**

a) **Graffiti**

The LAP will be aware of the problems with a rise in the incidents of Graffiti locally. The Forum is of course aware of the work done by the Community Safety Partnership and others in ensuring this issue has been monitored and that decisive action is being taken to tackle the problem.

The Graffiti is not just an eyesore it is also offensive; a real blight in our community. The thoughtless actions of a few is doing so much damage to the confidence of our community and there is the not so small matter of the costs involved in tackling this problem.

The footbridge connecting Muir Street and High Road has been a target for Graffiti recently. It is noted that much effort has gone in to ensuring the offensive and sectarian graffiti has been removed quickly. We commend the efforts of all concerned in recognising this issue is a problem and dealing with it as effectively as they are doing currently.

b) Town Centre

Likewise, we note that Police locally have been visible in and around our Town Centre. Engaging with groups of our young people and others congregating in the area and ensuring that these do not cause any problems for local residents, shoppers in and around our town centre.

c) Strathclyde Park

Summer is fast approaching and with it we hope a long period of sustained good weather. Strathclyde Park is bound to draw the crowds. The Forum has previously raised the issue of access and transport in and around the park. We were hoping the Park Manager could give us an update on plans to assist those with young children, and the less mobile get around the park as the walk from the park entrance bus stop to the main centre and M&D's can be daunting and off putting to these groups.

d) Garrion Square

The Forum has formally objected to a planning application by JD Wetherspoon to create an out-door eating space in Garrion Square.

e) Road works – Gridlock – Delays – Road Safety

The major roadworks going on around us continue to cause severe delays for drivers trying to get about across North Lanarkshire. Whilst, the delays are understandable given the scale of these works it does not mean that the resulting delays commuters experience is acceptable. No doubt when the works are complete the outcome for traffic flow across North Lanarkshire will be massive improvement on the previous and current situation. Even so, the Forum would like an update on the progress being made, are the works progressing to schedule and on budget, and what action is being taken to minimise the delays?