

## REPORT

To: EDUCATION COMMITTEE	Subject: CULTURE NL SERVICE REDESIGN AND PROPERTY RATIONALISATION – PROPERTIES SURPLUS TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	
From: HEAD OF EDUCATION (SKILLS, LIFELONG LEARNING & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT)		
Date: 10 AUGUST 2016	Ref: LMcM/FF	

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Education Committee to declare 3 libraries and 7 community facility buildings surplus to Education Services operational requirements.

**1.1 BACKGROUND****Facility Leased to Culture NL Limited**

Culture NL Limited (CNL), following a process of service redesign and asset rationalisation, linked to budget savings has, with approval from their Board, advised North Lanarkshire Council – through the change control process outlined in part 4 of the Services Agreement between North Lanarkshire Council and Culture NL, that CNL will no longer operate services from the following buildings:-

**1.1.1 Libraries**

- Craigneuk;
- Newarthill; and
- Old Monkland.

**1.1.2 Community Facilities**

- Bargeddie Hall;
- Coshneuk Hall;
- Harthill Senior Citizens Centre;
- Mossend Senior Citizen Centre;
- Springhill Senior Citizens Centre;
- Watson Street Community Room; and
- Whifflet Community Centre.

Location maps for each of the buildings are included in Appendix 1.

**2. CONSIDERATIONS****2.1 Potential Future Use of Facilities**

The facilities listed above, held in the Education Services Property portfolio, are currently leased by the Council to Culture NL Limited. Therefore, in order to consider the potential future use by the council or communities of the facilities listed in section 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, Education Services now require to declare them surplus to operational requirements. This will also allow Culture NL to reallocate the library resources to Community Libraries close to the existing area (i.e. general book stock, large print and talking books, PCs, DVDs and games resources) and work with organisations in the community to provide, for example, training for local volunteers in the delivery of Book Bug sessions in alternative locations,

develop options for placing deposit collections in local facilities and work with partners to develop access to IT and digital resources for affected communities and support the delivery of book groups in local Community Centres. CNL will also focus on supporting access to the home delivery service for those customers who are temporarily and permanently confined to their home due to disability, infirmity, illness or are carers of someone affected by these conditions and will ensure that mobile library services (both school and community) are adjusted to support access to library services.

Culture NL is currently making arrangements to relocate user groups to alternative local community facilities either within or close to the communities affected by property rationalisation.

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.1 ASPIRE**

From the perspective of the Council, there are clear links in Culture NL's approach to service redesign and engaging with service users and wider community to the ASPIRE programme as outlined in the report to the Policy & Resources Committee in December 2015. In particular, two key messages from the ASPIRE philosophy, apply particularly, these are:-

"customer insight and changes in customer behaviour and demand should drive our service delivery"

"we need to be community minded but commercially orientated and work with others to deliver services and make best use of the assets and resource available across the Council and in our Communities".

The outcome of community consultation and engagement carried out by Culture NL Limited can be accessed via the following link:-<https://culturenl.co.uk/publicconsultationreport/>

#### **3.2 North Lanarkshire Council Approach to Surplus Properties**

##### **Assessing Condition**

In line with the above, the Council now require to consider and assess the options for the future use of the 10 facilities listed in Section 1.1 of this report.

However, in order to effectively assess the options, condition surveys will be carried out to update the data originally assessed several years ago as part of the due diligence process around the establishment of Culture NL Limited. The surveys will be arranged through Property Services. The Business Manager (Estates) will co-ordinate the arrangements.

Subsequently, the following options have the potential to be explored:-

- alternative use by Other Council Service.
- lease to Community/Voluntary Sector Organisation; and
- community asset transfer;

### **4. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The revenue savings which will be released as a consequence of the service redesign and asset rationalisation in relation to the 10 facilities is estimated to be declared surplus is £573K.

The declaration of the 10 properties surplus to requirements will not yield any saving for education services as Culture NL was responsible for all revenue costs associated with the operation of each property.

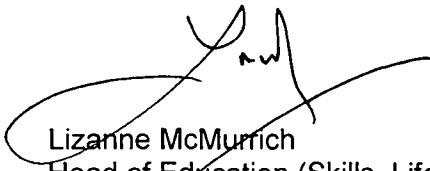
## Human Resource Implications

There are no redeployment issues for North Lanarkshire Council as the employer of any affected staff is Culture NL Limited and there are no anticipated business transfer implications.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 This Education Committee is recommended to:

- i) approve the proposal to declare the facilities listed in Section 1 of this report surplus to operational requirements in accordance with the Council's Surplus Land and Buildings Policy;
- ii) authorise the Head of Education Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment to prepare a report to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee seeking approval for the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy and associated guidelines;
- iii) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to establish a task and finish group to prepare a report for Policy and Resources Committee setting out the Council's future approach to volunteering and co-delivery of services with communities; and
- iv) remit this report to the Policy and Resources (Regeneration and Infrastructure) Sub-Committee for consideration.



Lizanne McMurrich  
Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning & Youth Employment)

Local Government Access to Information Act: For further information please contact:  
Lizanne McMurrich, Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning & Youth Employment) on 01236  
812338

# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Springhill Senior Citizen's Centre

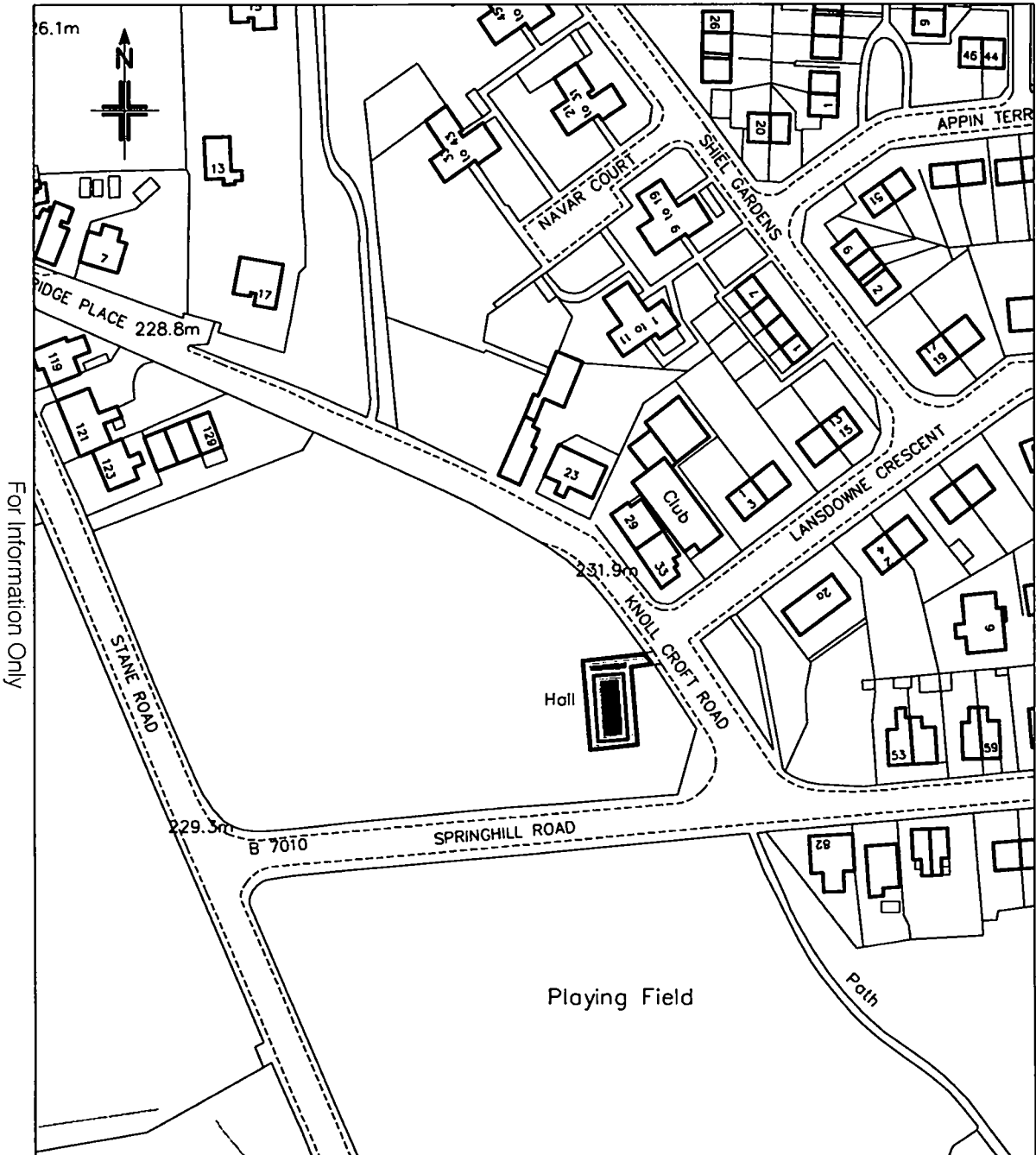
Scale 1:NTS



Town: Knoll Croft Road, Shotts

Date: 10/08/16

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 North Lanarkshire Council  
 Fleming House  
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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Mossend Senior Citizen's

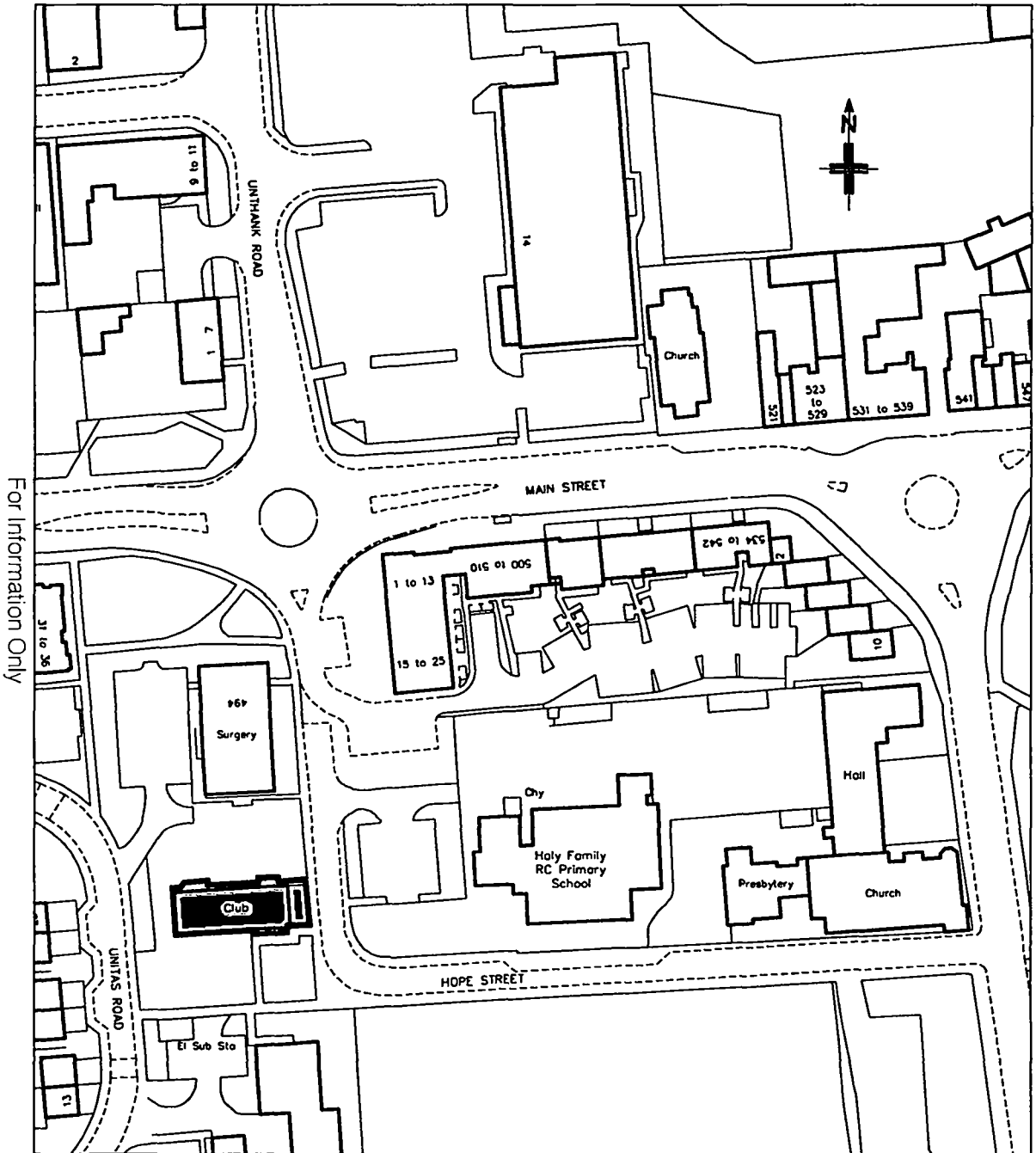
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Town: Hope Street, Mossend

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Coshneuk Hall

Scale 1:NTS



Town: Coshneuk Road, Steps

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Harthill Senior Citizen's Centre

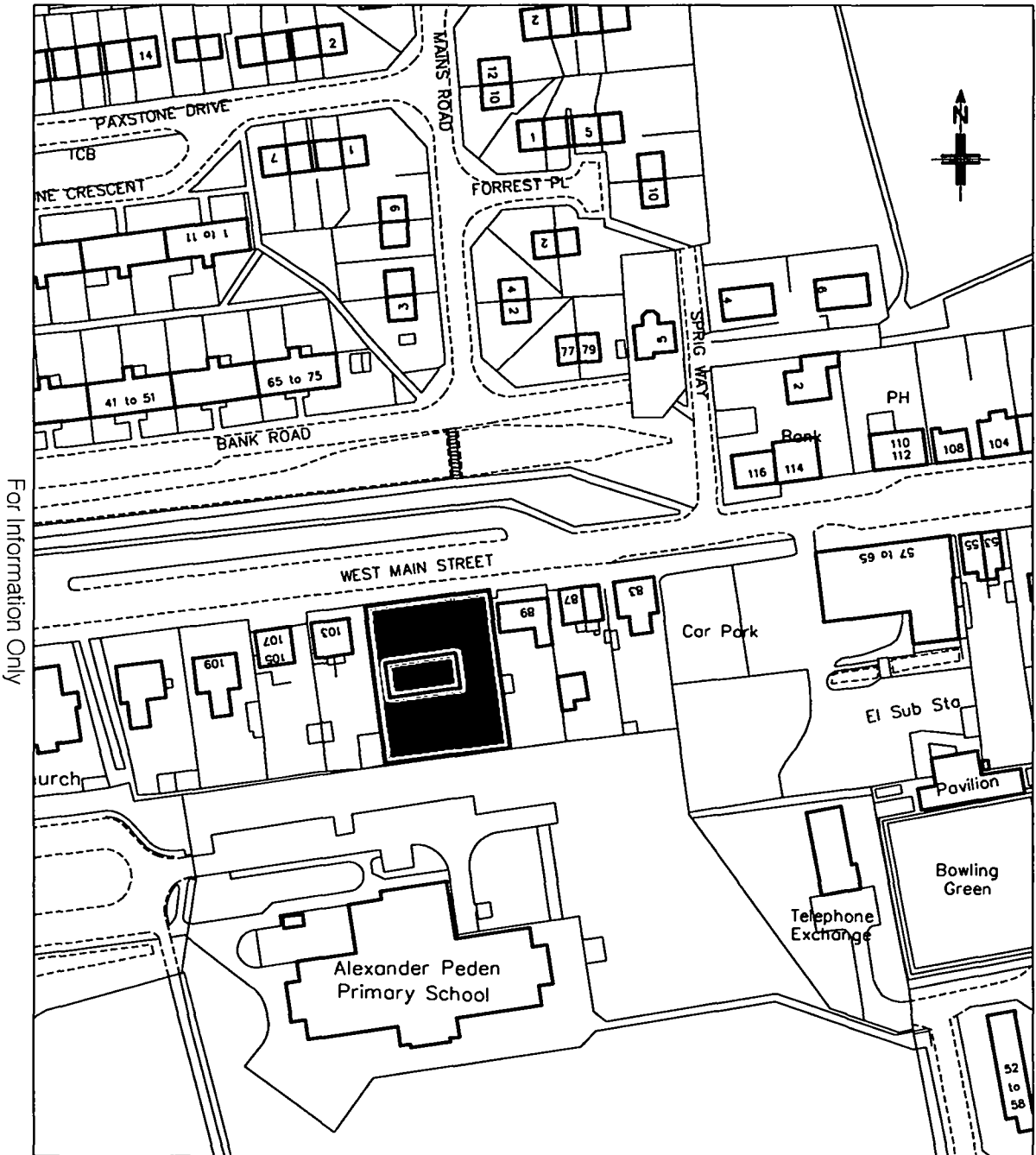
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Town: West Main St, Harthill

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Bargeddie Hall

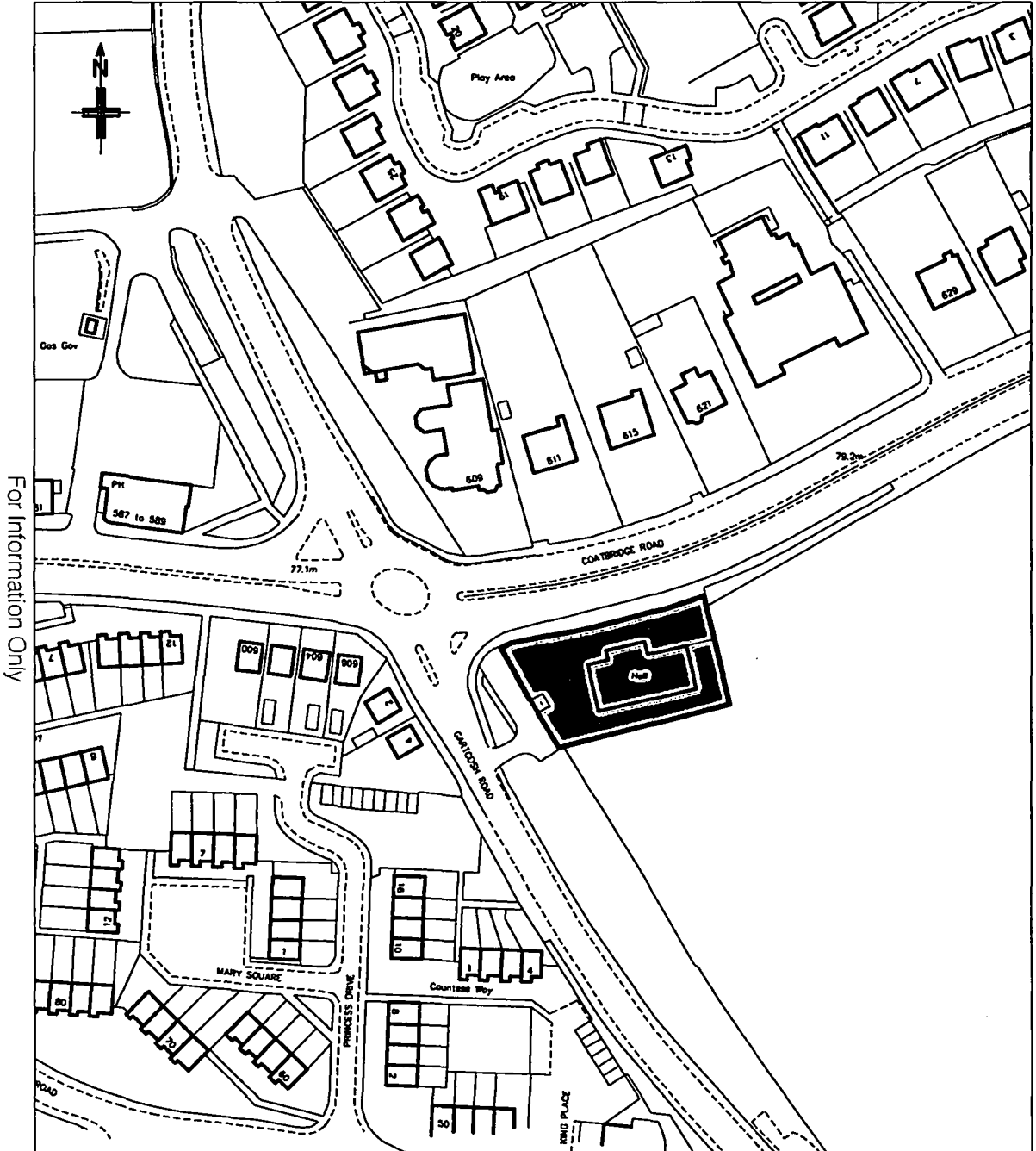
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Town: Bargeddie

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Craigneuk Library

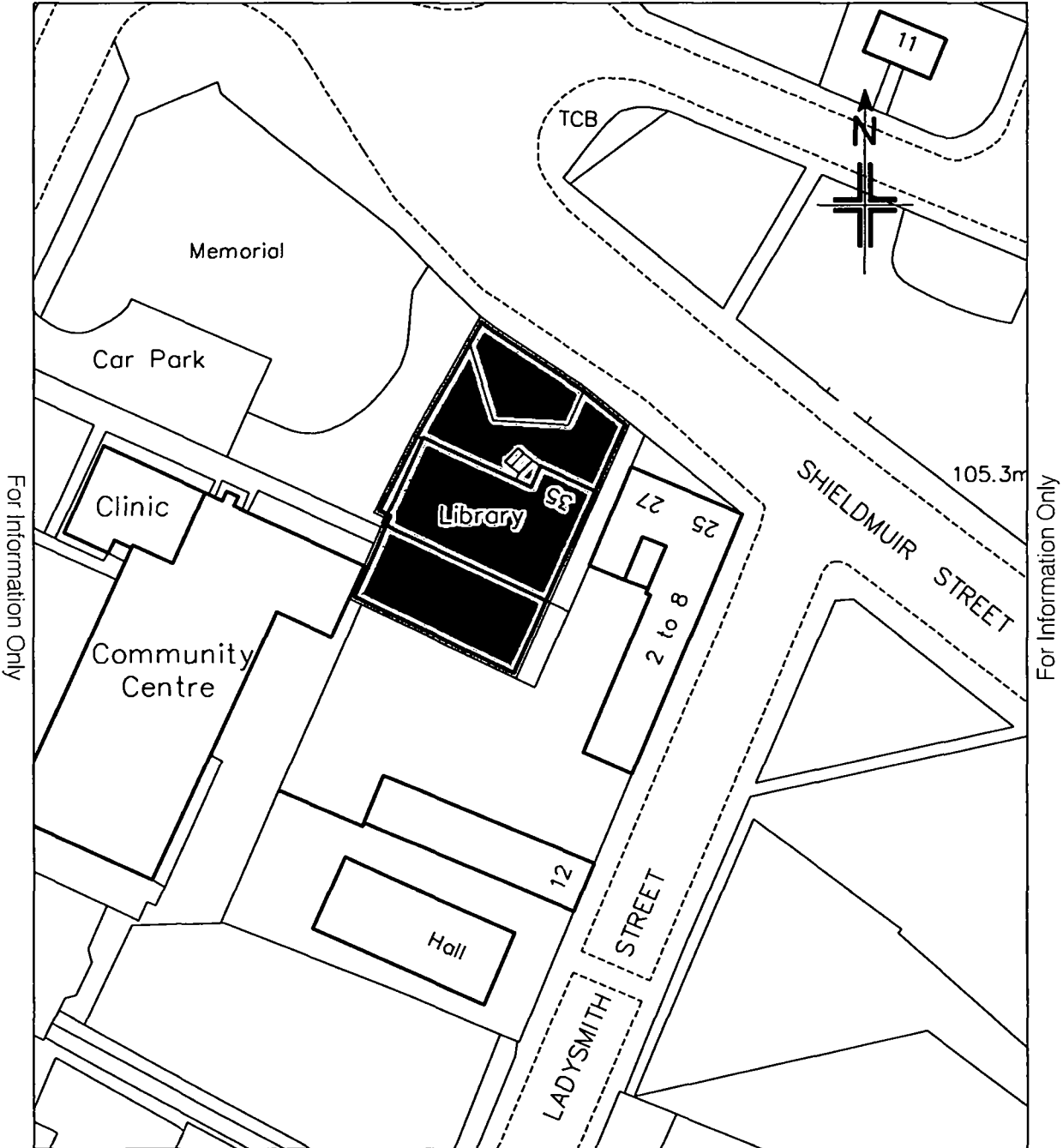
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Town: Motherwell

Date: 10/08/2016

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Watson Street Community Centre

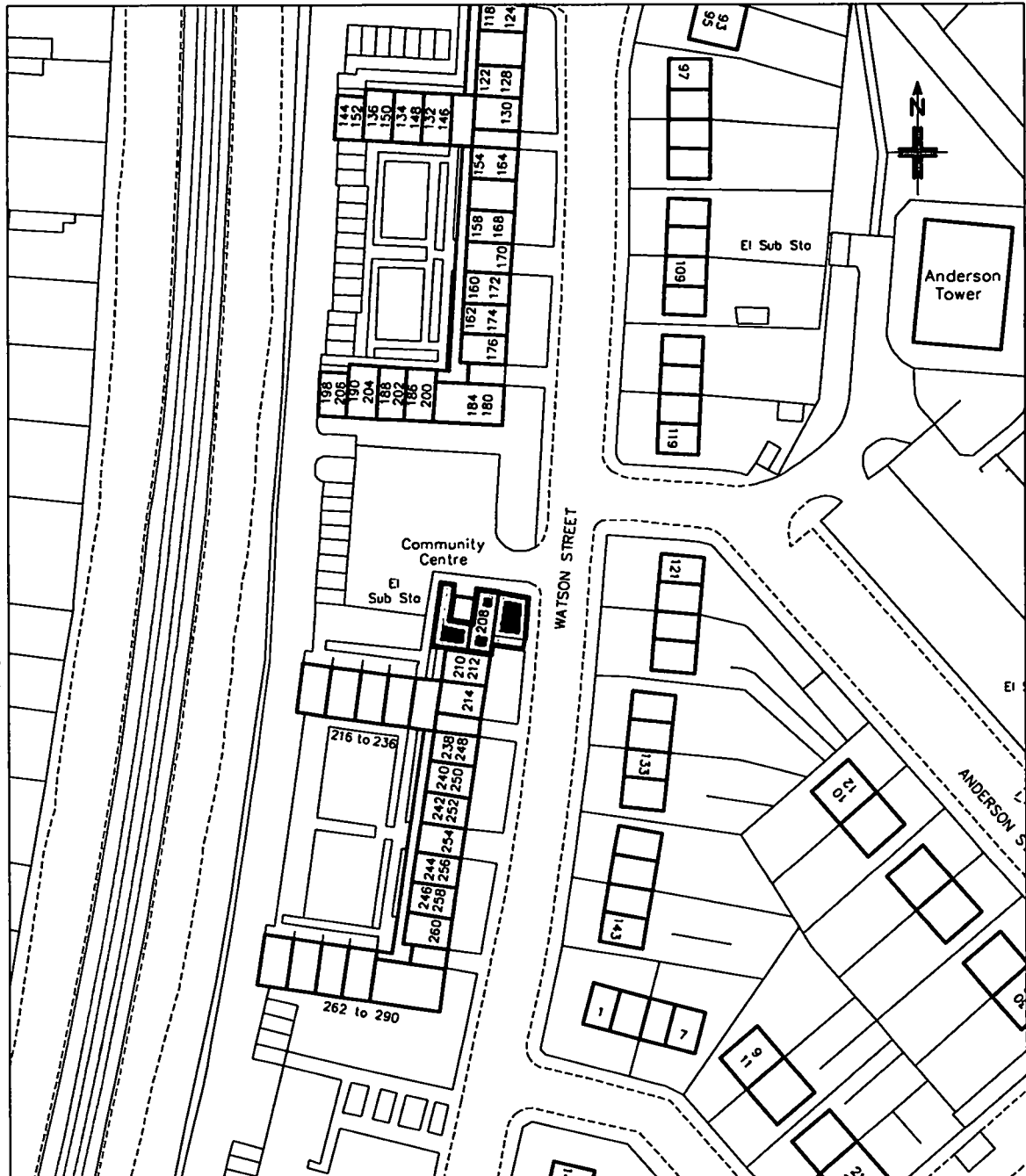
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Town: Watson Street, Motherwell

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Whifflet Community Centre

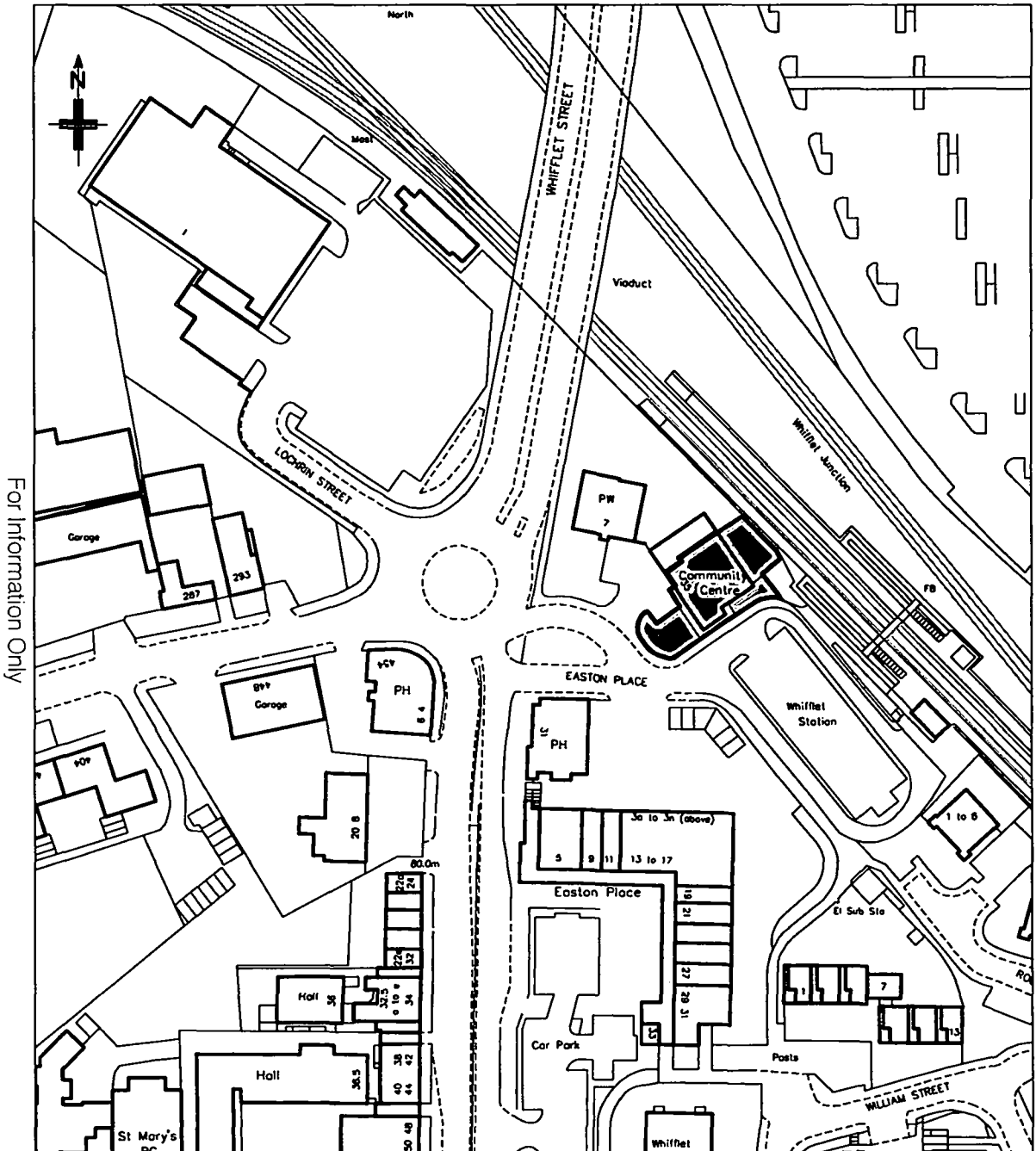
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Town: Easton Place, Coatbridge

Date: 10/08/16

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Newarthill Library

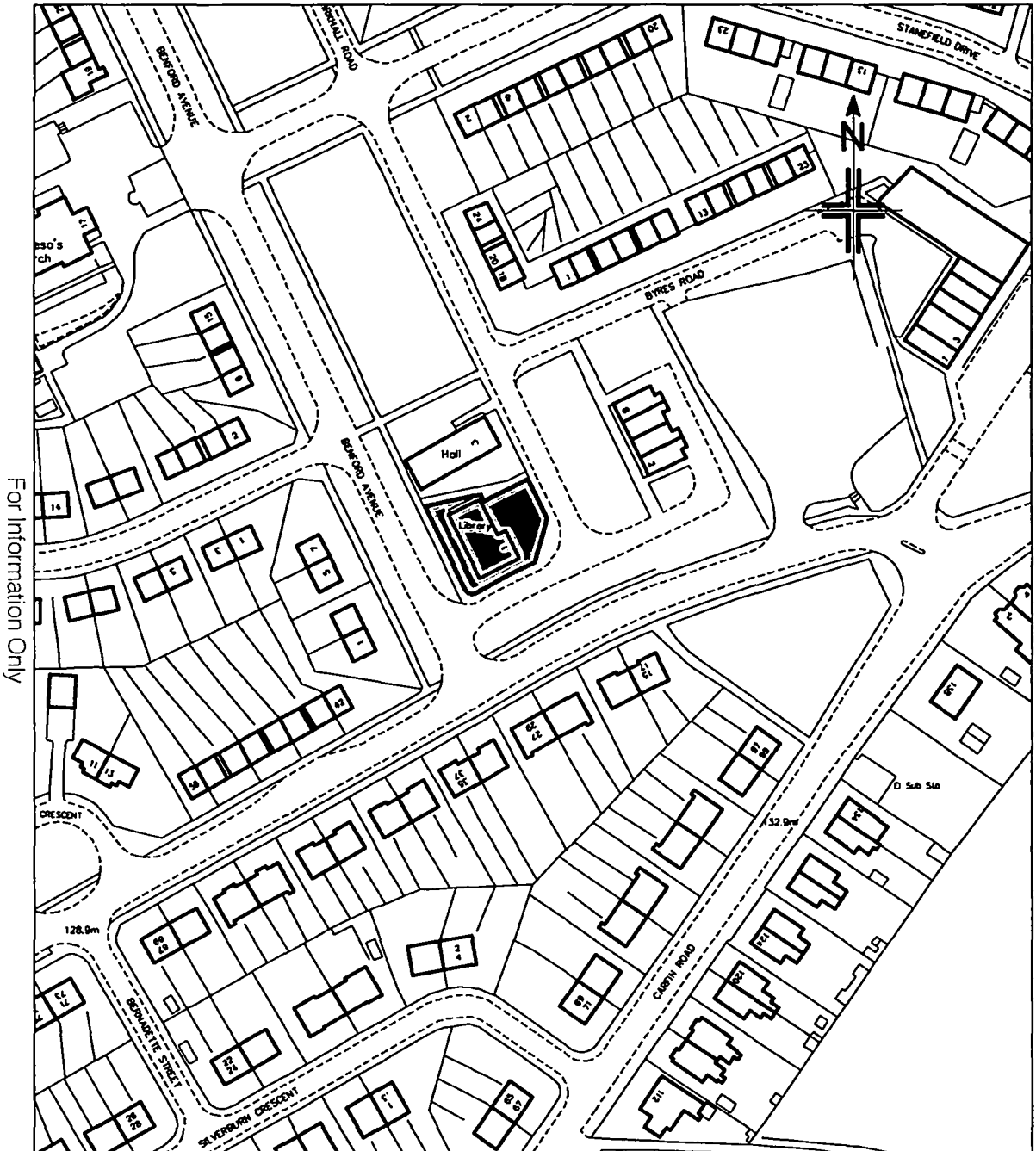
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Town: Newarthill

Date: 10/08/2016

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# LOCATION PLAN - For Information Only

Title: Old Monkland Library

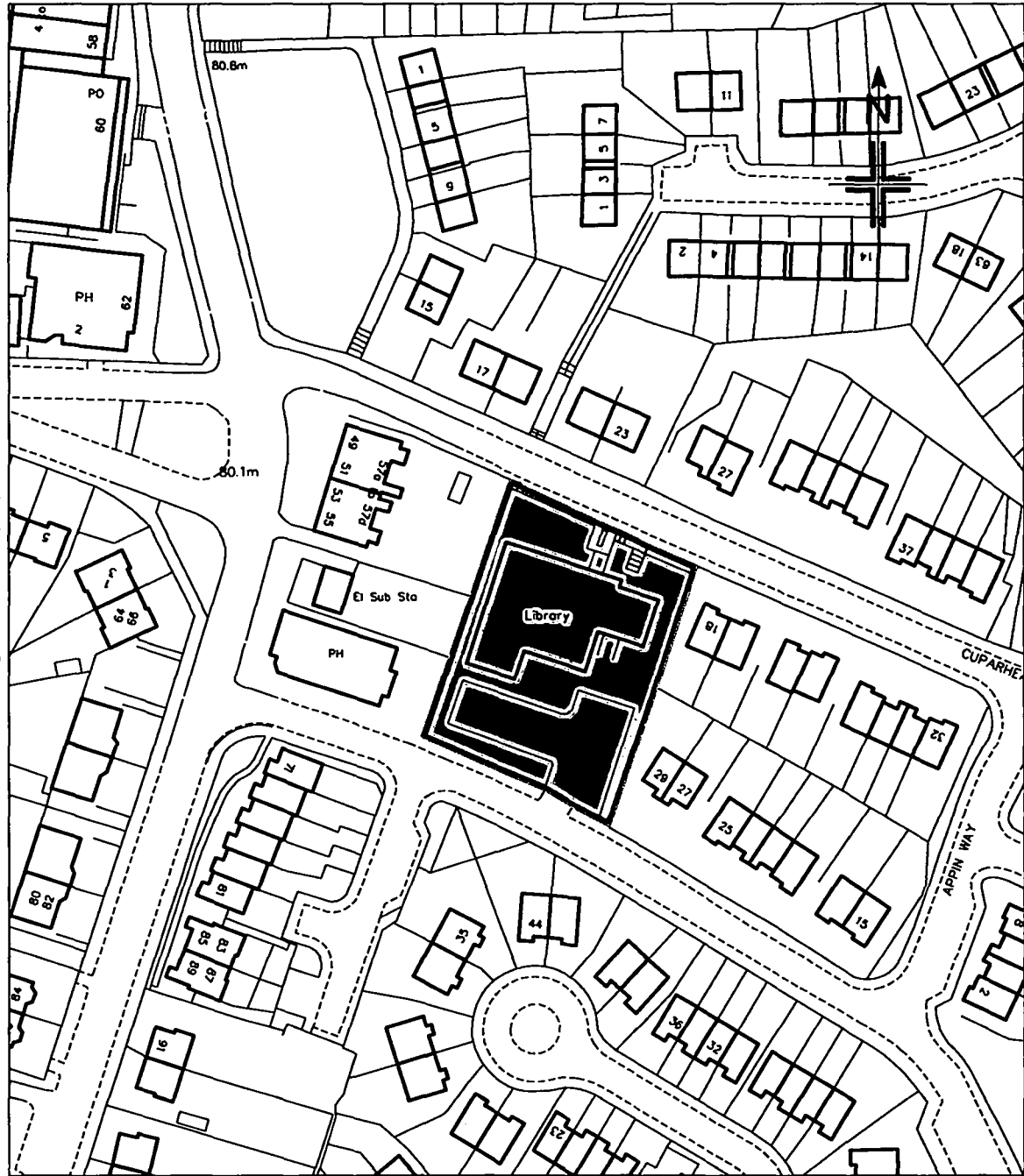
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Town: Coatbridge

Date: 10/08/2016

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