

Community Forum Report to Local Area Partnership

Background

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

Since the last Local Area Partnership the group has hosted it's AGM on the 3rd of December and held a regular business meeting on the 14th of January, which was continued on the 28th of January. All of these meeting took place in Airdrie Art Centre with the exception of the meeting on the 28th which was hosted in Gartlea Community Centre.

Community Forum Update

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

A.V.C.F hosted its AGM on the 3rd of December in Airdrie Arts Centre the new constitution was adopted and ratified by the whole group and the following office bearer's were elected: Bob Smith Chair, Nancy Pettigrew Vice Chair, Christine MacDonald Secretary, and Thomas McFarlane Treasurer. At the AGM the group identified a number of key priorities for the coming year including building the presence of the group in the locality and working more effectively for the people of Airdrie.

To this end the group has reenergised a health sub group which has met twice (17th December, and 7th of January) the health sub group will be driving with partners in NHS Lanarkshire a health Improvement event in Airdrie Town on the 28th of February. The purpose of the event is to offer participants a market stall of local health initiatives and gather the views and priorities of local people to further inform the group's development plan. The group have also been supporting the work of the Community Learning Plan to stimulate wider community activity and participation in the Whinhall area Airdrie. The partnership hosted an initial event in October 2008 and will attend and support a further event in Victoria Primary School on the 26th of January.

At the last meeting the group also hosted a presentation by Network Rail on the Airdrie-Bathgate line. The meeting was advertised and open to the general public and was attended by 15 members of the public during a lively question and answer session that followed a number of issues that potentially impacted on the town were brought to the fore.

Issues for consideration at LAP

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

The members of Airdrie and Villages would like an update on the following issues:

Following the presentation by Network Rail on 14th January the membership were made aware that there are a number of potential issues that could adversely impact on the locality and the town of Airdrie in particular arising from this development. Whilst the membership broadly welcomed this development there was a concern voiced at the meeting that the shift from being the 'end of the line' may have a negative impact both economically, socially and on the current transport infrastructure on the town. Further, to this Network rail stated that there were no plans within the current development to upgrade the Airdrie station as a gateway to the town we feel that the current station does not create a positive first impression of the town.

Further to the update on Recycling, the group are concerned that the current recession may impact, through a drop in the wholesale price of waste, on the authorities' ability to deliver on its stated targets.

Community Forum achievements/new developments

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

Forum members have recently been involved in a number of meetings with the wider partnership looking primarily at how we work together as a partnership these included the a specific meeting on developing a partnership agreement between the wider partnership and all the Community Fora and latterly an event at Gartlea on the 16th of January where all the stakeholders looked at how we could improve services in line with the Single outcome agreement and optimise the potential inherent in the current local structures.

Please note that any neighbourhood or community issues should be discussed with your Community Engagement Officer to be raised with the appropriate council department or at the next LAT meeting.