

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: GOOD NEWS REPORT
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 31 October 2006	Ref: JL/mm	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Bellshill Local Area Partnership of current "good news" stories related to the area. This is the first of a series of reports which will include issues relating to Council departments and Partner agencies.

2. Background

- 2.1 A list of the current "good news" stories is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That members note the content of this report.



Chief Executive
31 October 2006

Bellshill Local Area Partnership

Good News Report

9 November 2006

Health, Wellbeing and Care

Sir Matt Busby Free School Swims

The October school holiday Free Swim Scheme for under 16's was once again operated at the Sir Matt Busby Centre.

This is the sixth successive year of this popular scheme in North Lanarkshire, during which time hundreds of thousands of free swims have been enjoyed by local children quick to take advantage of the holiday fun on offer. The added bonus is that the scheme simultaneously provides enjoyment and health giving activity in a safe and secure environment.

Walk to School Week

Community Wardens have been involved in a Walk to School Week with pupils from Mossend Primary School. The Wardens, along with the Community Police Officers assisted in this national initiative aimed at encouraging children to use a safe walking route to school and to minimise the traffic around schools at the start of the day. Around 40 children per day participated in this event.

Health Issues in the Community

The aim of this course is to enable participants to explore and understand the educational, social, political and community development processes that are involved in addressing health issues in the community.

Fairplay for Families, (formerly known as Parents for Playparks), formed as a result of a "Health Issues in the Community" course. During the course the group identified the lack of a suitable playpark for the children and young people of Holytown.

The group consulted with local parents using a questionnaire to establish whether or not there was any demand for a playpark in the village. In addition, petitions were placed in local shops asking residents for their support. The group also produced a DVD.

The group are presently consulting with other action groups and initiatives such as Fairshare, for advice on funding, planning, and ongoing management of playparks and indoor facilities. They hope to be able to raise the necessary funds to install and maintain a new facility for the children and young people of the village.

Community Safety

Local Railway Safety

Railway safety within the Bellshill Area has featured highly on the agenda of recent issues. Network Rail had identified Bellshill and surrounding area as one of its main national priority locations. This was unfortunately highlighted by the recent incident in Bellshill where a local boy was severely injured.

The Area team has been working closely with Martin Gallagher, the Crime Education Manager (Network Rail Scotland), to examine a number of opportunities for delivering a co-ordinate approach to ensuring greater community safety through intervention, information and enforcement.

As a result they will be establishing Rail Safety Reps in the schools in Bellshill and running a number of competitions to keep the community safety theme high on the local agenda. Local school pupils will now be participating in direct school based information sessions.

Network Rail has now indicated that they would wish for North Lanarkshire to be the host of their 'No Messing' event in 2007. Run over two days these events are normally held in Scotland's major cities where rail crime is an issue. The events are free and are about promoting positive pathways for young people during their spare time - as well as containing a subtle safety message. They will offer the children of North Lanarkshire a range of different activities - Football, Martial Arts, Basketball, Cricket, Climbing, Wrestling, Boxing, Motorcycling, Dancing, DJ workshops etc.

Youth Diversion Initiative Wins National Award for Standing up to Anti Social Behaviour

In February 2006, Bellshill Community Policing Department joined in partnership with Generation Youth, North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development and Reeltime Music to provide a youth diversion initiative in the Newarthill area of ND Sub Division. Newarthill had been experiencing numerous complaints of anti social behaviour by youths, particularly on Friday nights near to licensed premises.

A range of activities were provided including a mobile recording studio for young people with Reeltime music, a mobile skateboarding park, play stations, karaoke, a chill out area, DVD recording and various craft and arts activities.

The initiative was extremely successful and resulted in a significant reduction in complaints regarding youth disorder in the area.

The initiative was submitted for entry in the Scottish Executive "Standing Up to Anti Social Behaviour Awards". Over 100 entries were received by the Executive in these awards and this initiative, entitled TFI Friday was successful in achieving an award under the Above and Beyond category. The Award Ceremony was held in the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle on 25th October 2006 and was attended by members of the partnership team including Sgt Irvine of the Community Policing Department.

A similar project is currently underway in the Hattonrigg area of Bellshill.

The above work also included input from Community Wardens who are working in partnership with a number of agencies.

Learning through Life

Groove

Youngsters throughout North Lanarkshire were treated to a host of activities during the month of October with this year's youth arts festival, Groove Live.

The festival, aimed at young people aged from 5-25 years, was available in venues and schools throughout the authority including, Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre, Cumbernauld Theatre and Bellshill Cultural Centre.

Bellshill Cultural Centre

Feedback from visitors to the new library in Bellshill Cultural Centre has been excellent following the exciting refurbishment. This has again raised North Lanarkshire to the forefront of innovative design fit for 21st Century Libraries.

Local residents have been extremely impressed by the new design and innovative layout of the library. A complete facelift has resulted in wide open spaces, more natural light, contemporary furniture designed to encourage browsing and borrowers are also able to relax in the comfortable seating areas.

Cardinal Newman High School

As part of the schools Ambition Initiative and using funding from the Scottish Executive, Cardinal Newman High School has now officially opened its hospitality suite. Jack McConnell, Michael O'Neill and other dignitaries were present at the official opening on 6th October 2006.

Andrew Fairley, Head Chef at Gleneagles, has been involved in the project and has prepared a meal in the kitchens. The Hospitality Suite provides the school with an up to date commercial restaurant kitchen and individually designed during area where pupils can be trained in all aspects of hospitality.

Bellshill Academy

Bellshill Academy has successfully completed its HMIe follow-through inspection. We believe that the school will be shortly signed-off by HMIe as it has now met all the Action Points identified in the original report.

This year, the Academy has achieved an unprecedented pass rate at Standard Grade. 25% of the S4 Cohort have gained 5+ credit passes. The school has moved from rank order 25 in North Lanarkshire to 12.

Mossend Primary

The interim HMIe Report has been published and the school is making good progress on all but one of its Action Points. This is completely on schedule as the outstanding Action Point was scheduled to be tackled following the other points being addressed.

St Gerards's Primary School

Following recent successful HMIe Report and North Lanarkshire follow – through which identified areas of excellence, the Head teacher has now left the school having been appointed to Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

A new Head Teacher – Ian Conaghan – has been appointed.

Bellshill Community Centre Youth Group

The above Community Learning and Development group meets every Monday and Thursday in the Bellshill Community Centre. They are in the main a 'Drop In' group who use the premises as a place where they can meet their friends and gain access to a variety of sport and music activities.

However, they have been active in organising a series of safety orientated talks involving local organisations. These activities have usually followed the following format:

- A presentation by the organisation
- A 'Question and Answer' session

To date they have had contact with the local Police, the Transport Police, and the Fire & Rescue Service.

Strathclyde Police	16 th March
Transport Police	25 th May
Belshill Fire & Rescue Service	23 rd October

The Fire & Rescue Service has also extended an invitation for members of the group to visit the fire station on Thursday 26th October.

In addition to the above, a visit from the Coast Guard Service has agreed to visit the group on Monday the 4th of December, this will be followed by a visit to the Greenock Control Centre in the New Year.

Sixteen members of the group have also been invited to visit the AirTraffic Control Centre in Atlantic House, Prestwick on Thursday 14th December.

Housing and Environment

Kew Gardens Sheltered Housing Complex

Work has started on the construction of a new common room facility for the residents of Kew Gardens Sheltered Housing Complex in Viewpark.

The £300,000 design and build project which was won by Fleming Builders Ltd will provide the residents with a large common room area capable of accommodating 60 people. This will make a real difference to the lives of all the residents and help us to come together and organise social events. The facility will also include two smaller rooms for the use of other agencies for talks to the residents or displays. It is anticipated the project will be completed early in 2007.