



# West Lothian Council

## **BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

### **Locality Planning**

#### **REPORT BY: Ian Quigley, Bathgate Lead Officer**

#### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an update to local members on community regeneration activity in the Bathgate Ward.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the content of this report and approve: -

- Planned Alcohol Diversionary budget proposals for 2010/11.
- Vicki Hamilton, commemorative tree request.
- Former Lindsay House, building naming proposals.

#### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>I Council Values</b>   | Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.   |
| <b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b> | Local Action plans reinforce the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.  |
| <b>III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>   | Plans will be delivered within the existing resources of community planning partners supplemented by any additional external funding which can be secured. Also £20,479.00 Bathgate alcohol diversionary funds are confirmed for financial year 2010/11. |
| <b>IV Consultations</b>   | Consultations will take place with local members, community representatives and community planning partners.   |

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **Background**

Community regeneration activity in the ward is ongoing, with a variety of groups meeting to take forward the Bathgate priorities for the area.

The report highlights the main developments since the last Local Area Committee.

## **E. Alcohol Diversionary Project**

**Evaluation 2009/10.** Budget 2009/10 - £20, 479.00.

Hip Friday( Bathgate Sports Centre)

This programme ran from October 2009 till end of March 2010. Activity was delivered to youths from Bathgate on Friday afternoons from 2.00 – 4.30pm. Bathgate Sports centre was used as the base for the delivery of the programme. We were advised by Police that Friday afternoons were a key time for consumption of alcohol by school aged children.

Diversionary activities included football, golf, dance, badminton, basketball, hairdressing and pampering sessions. Hairdressing, dance and golf proved to be the most popular activities.

Attendance was consistent over the months from January to March, averaging 37. Attendance in the start up month was poor ranging from 6 to 23. The event was publicised widely throughout Bathgate via schools, community centre and Chill out Zone. Youths from Boghall were consistent in their attendance and as many as 20 returned each week.

Bathgate Sports Centre as a location proved popular amongst users with access to multiple activities on hand. A strong partnership developed between centre management, CLD, YAP and Police. However it should be noted that managing two distinct client groups within the one facility did throw up its problems and there were behavioural issues from Hip Friday youths that required to be managed by exclusion to the facility. This however was not a regular occurrence.

One of the methods used to reward positive behaviour was the use of HMV£5voucher system. Case studies have been carried out, but not available at time of writing report.

## Spend Detail 2009/10

Supplier	Detail	Cost
HMV	25 x £5 vouchers	106.38
HMV	25 x £5 vouchers	106.38
HMV	25 x £5 vouchers	106.38
HMV	5 x £5 vouchers	21.28
inprint	Hip Friday Posters 200 A5	86.00
inprint	30 A3 Saturday night Fever	36.00
WLYAP	Staff costs Sept to March	3,214.89
WLYAP	Transport Costs	810.00
xcite Bathgate	Group studio	214.55
xcite Bathgate	Rudd Hall	766.60
xcite Bathgate	Group studio	300.37
xcite Bathgate	Rudd Hall	1,073.24
xcite Bathgate	08.01.09-29.01.10	784.92
xcite Bathgate	08.01.09-29.01.10	784.92
xcite Bathgate	05.03.10 to 26.03.10	699.10
	Staff costs Bathgate Sports	
CLD	Centre	3,100.00
Andy Boylan	Scottish Youth Fishing Funding	400.00
	Restricted Funding Saturday	
Boghall Drop In	Programme - Bathgate Academy	7,867.00
	<b>Actual Expenditure 2009/10</b>	<b>£ 20,478.01</b>
	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£ 20,479.00</b>

## Planned Alcohol Diversions Programme 2010/11

### Street Workers

Proposal is for two dedicated street workers to be employed to serve Bathgate. Employed through Youth Action Project, workers will operate on Fridays and Saturdays. Friday from 2.00 – 10.00pm and Saturday from 6.00 – 10.00pm. Working in partnership with community groups and Police.

Key responsibilities and objectives of street workers: -

- Provide information on numbers of youths spoken too and from what areas of Bathgate.
- Who have you spoken too? (named persons, following information sharing, data protection procedures)
- What do you better understand as a result of your youth engagement activity?
- What programmes would the people you have engaged with support or welcome being introduced to Bathgate.
- Signpost or refer to other services/ activity.
- Follow up referrals, what outcomes have been delivered.
- All records to be stored electronically and monthly reports detailing statistical information, case studies, results of referrals to other services/ agencies and success indicators. Reports monthly to West Lothian Council, copied to Lothian & Borders Police, Bathgate.

Target areas are initially identified as, Race Road, Whitburn Road, Balbardie Park Youth Shelter, Crosshill Drive and Boghall.

Estimated cost of street work project planned to run from May till October (six months) is calculated at around £8000.00, which includes all data management, project evaluation and write up.

## Kirkton Park Event

A £1500 contribution is sought to support a planned party event in Kirkton park to attract youths where partners including WLDAS, YAP and A2E will give out specific alcohol/drug/ employment advice. Funding is sought to cover costs associated with live bands and staging. Further specific details of planned event are detailed later in this report.

## Balance of Funds

The two projects detailed propose to spend £9,500. The remaining balance of around £11,000 is not proposed to be allocated until there is evidence and recommendations from Street Workers, Police and partners on where funds should be targeted. We propose that information will be available for next LAC that will allow for spending decisions to be made.

**Action:** Members are asked to support planned spending proposals for Alcohol Diversionary fund for 2010/11.

## Vicki Hamilton – Commemorative Tree

The council have been approached by Vicki's sister (Sharon Brown) to request a tree be planted to mark the location close to the place where Vicki was last seen alive.

Trees are due to be replaced in the Steelyard as part of the regeneration programme, a small memorial plaque was also requested by Sharon.

**Action:** Members are asked to consider whether a commemorative tree planted in Steelyard, with plaque should be approved.

## Naming of former Lindsay House.

A sod cutting ceremony was held on 16<sup>th</sup> April to recognise the commencement of building activity. The ceremony included invited guest from elected members, business, community groups, council officers and the main contractor Ogilvie's.

The council propose to name the building:

*Bathgate Partnership Centre,  
New Lindsay House  
South Bridge Street  
Bathgate*

Previous community consultations on the naming of the building, failed to deliver consensus on an appropriate name. List of suggestions included: -

- The Peoples House
- James Young Simpson Building
- Newlands Community House
- Link to Dr Who ( David Tennant)
- Marjoribanks House
- Harvie– Watt Building “ A Bathgate bairn who was a PPS to Winston Churchill”
- Stewart, the name should appear in the building as a link to Robert the Bruce.
- Named after, Dr John Fleming, James Young Simpson or Dr John Reid.
- The GATETOGETHER
- The Raven Centre
- The John Lockhart Centre
- Community House

Bathgate Community Council and Bathgate Community Centre Management Committee, have also added "*both committees would like to propose the name for the new civic building in Bathgate as Sir James Young Simpson House, This would commemorate Sir James Young Simpson and would aligned with the celebration of the Bi-Centenary which would be around the same time as the official opening for the new building*".

Members should note that there will also be further opportunities to name the library suite and meetings rooms.

**Action:** members are asked to comment on council proposal. If members endorse proposal, this will be reported to council executive for final approval.

### **Future Jobs Fund (FJF)**

We are currently recruiting for two young people to be employed as Town Centre Assistants. A supervisor has been appointed and commenced his duties on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The supervisor post was funded by European funding sources with the FJF six month positions being funded by Government and administered by DWP and Access2Employment. These particular posts will base themselves in the Home Aid premises on Gideon Street and will be line managed by Home Aid manager, Jackie Agnew.

They will work closely with Enterprising Bathgate in identifying projects that would be of benefit to both town centre businesses, visitors and shoppers to the town.

FJF posts are also being supported at Boghall Drop – In Centre, Home Aid and Voluntary Sector Gateway. We are also in discussions with the main contractor appointed to carry out regeneration/ streetscape improvements in George Street to determine whether they could support and supervise FJF positions.

### **Town Centre Regeneration Fund**

- Signage strategy complete by September.
- A revision of the paving material schedule for works planned for St David's Square and Steelyard will result in a slippage of two weeks on the planned programme start date. Works now scheduled to commence on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- WiFi Zone – Bid team met with company representatives, a full feasibility study is being programmed for late June.

A full detailed progress report will be circulated to Bathgate Regeneration Group.

## **Kirkton Park – Friends of the Park**

Discussions are ongoing in an attempt to hold a community place making event in the park during September. Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> is being proposed as the most suitable date as it would tie in with the start of the Bathgate Music Festival and in turn would benefit from associated publicity. The event is being planned to raise awareness of the beauty of this unique location and to promote the health associated benefits from regular exercise and participation in gardening activity.

Community consultation will be carried out on the day to determine whether there is support for a community growing project/ community allotments. Bathgate Academy has expressed a strong interest in being involved in future discussions. Other local schools and community groups will also be encouraged to participate.

It is planned to have Live Music sessions, to encourage youths to the event and have alcohol awareness and support services in attendance to promote available help.

Boghall Fun day have also agreed to hold their annual event on the 12<sup>th</sup> that will assist in adding some vibrancy to the occasion.

There are also several people who have expressed an interest in forming a constituted Friends of the Park group. An initial steering group meeting is being planned for June. A Friend of the Park group can apply for external funding sources that would benefit the wider community.

Partners consulted this far include, Police, Nets & Land services, Bathgate Music Festival, Community representatives, Council's Building Control, Boghall Fun day Committee, Bathgate Academy, Youth Action Project and Health Improvement Team.

Progress on planned event will be detailed to elected members on a regular basis as well as detail of planned meeting with Friends of the Park steering group.

## **Saturday Street Fever ( Bathgate Academy)**

This programme funded through Cashback for Communities award was planned to run until 29<sup>th</sup> May, however additional income from the 2009/10 Alcohol Diversionary under spend of £7,800 has allowed the programme to be extended until 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Attendance at the programme has been steady with an average of 40 young persons attending each Saturday evening, with 120 people registered throughout duration of programme.

Positive feedback has been received from community, school, young people, session workers and Police.

Attendance at the programme has been predominately from young people from the Boghall area. Work is ongoing to promote the event throughout the town to get wider community participation.

A Celebration of success event is planned toward the end of programme. Elected members and community planning partners to be invited.

Funding options to extend the programme beyond 26<sup>th</sup> June are being explored with partners. A project evaluation will assist in determining the success of the programme.

## **Boghall Drop – In & Resource Centre.**

During the last six months a systems for performance monitoring and evaluation have been introduced at the Drop - in. A new data base registers visitor numbers, names and the structured activities in which they participate in. This information will be used to assist in the signposting to services that best meet the needs of the person and to ensure links to training and educational opportunities are maximised with partners such as Access2Employment.

### Summary data:

No of active participants to Drop – In ( Oct – March 2011) = 411

Participants in structured activity ( Oct – March 2011) = 187

Structured activity refers to programmes such as, computer classes, get cooking, writers group, Access2Employment, parent support, parents pram walk, volunteering, young girls health group, stop smoking support, baby group, Boghall food group, etc.

### Funding Shortfall

Members are asked to note that the Boghall Drop – In Management Committee have reported a projected budget deficit for this financial year (2010- 11) of around £6,000. The AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> May also reported a project deficit for the year 2009/10 of £1800.00.

An additional £2500 has been secured from Fairer Scotland Fund that will fund planned activities.

Jim Saunders, the Link Officer for the organisation is working closely with the committee to tackle this issue. A meeting has been set up with an officer from “Children in Need” to establish whether this project would be in a position to apply for funding.

Members will be kept updated on developments.

## **Boghall Health Activity Report (enclosed)**

The enclosed report details the health activity programme now underway in Boghall lead by George Scott, NHS Public Health Nurse. The most recent project to be introduced is the Young Girls Health Group. Participants invited onto programme have been selected by partners including Police ( Campus officer at Bathgate Academy). There is now a waiting list to access this programme.

The health activity programme is funded in part by the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF).

## **Community Regeneration Action Plan ( enclosed)**

Find enclosed copy of the Action Plan for 2010/11 for Community Regeneration Officer, Jim Saunders. The plan details his work priorities for the year.

### **Bathgate Fairtrade**

A steering group has now been set up consisting of representatives of Balbardie Primary, Bathgate Academy, Voluntary sector, church groups and Council officer.

First meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May and focussed on application process. It became apparent that Bathgate seem to be well placed to make a successful application for Fairtrade status for the town.

Application process likely to be complete by end of year. Members will be kept advised on progress and be invited to our next planned group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August at 4.00pm, Voluntary Sector Gateway.

### **Cran Gevrier, France**

A delegation from the French town will arrive for procession week, including the Mayor, Jean Boutry, accompanied by a 10 piece music group and other invited guests. The group will take a full and active role in procession week celebrations.

Funding options are to be explored, linked to the development of the twinning arrangement. The funding model that currently exists between Linlithgow and Guyancourt in France will be examined.

### **Life stages Report**

At the previous March LAC report, the section detailing Life stages referred to an appendix 1, which was not attached. These documents are now enclosed.

### **Bathgate Ski Club**

Meetings have now taken place between representatives of both Bathgate Ski Club and Springgrove Bowling Club. Both groups recognised the benefits of cohabitation linked to securing the long term viability of the building.

At the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010, both groups agreed that Bathgate Ski Club will move from their current location at Bathgate Community Centre and move into the bowling green pavilion during spring of 2011. The ski club will occupy the existing club committee room on a permanent basis. The ski clubs long term aspirations may lead to exploring options to extend their allocated space, external funding would be sought for this.

### **Wester inch Summer Fayre**

This event is current being planned with community representatives and council officers. The event will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September within the grounds and buildings of Simpson primary school.

Further programme details will be detailed at the next Local Area Committee.



## **E. CONCLUSION**

The actions detailed above are contributing to the Bathgate Action Plan and is enabling Community Planning Partners to begin to deliver the single outcome agreement at a local level.

## **F. Appendices**

- Boghall Health Action Report
- Community Regeneration Action plan
- Life Stages

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Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.