

PRESS CUTTING

# The Extra

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# Housing cash not enough says Jack

**MOTHERWELL and Wishaw MSP Jack McConnell has expressed concern that funding for council houses by the Scottish Government falls well short of the needs of North Lanarkshire.**

As reported in The Extra last week, North Lanarkshire Council is to receive £1 million to subsidise 40 new homes at a cost of £25,000 each.

This will be the first major council house building programme for 30 years, but figures procured by political website TheyWorkForYou reveal the council had actually applied for over £4.6 million to build 185 houses.

**BRIAN YULE reporting**

Mr McConnell said: "While the announcement of 40 new council houses in North Lanarkshire is welcome, it does fall well short of the bid by North Lanarkshire Council for 185. North Lanarkshire is a huge area, and these 40 houses will just not be enough.

"This is a difficult time for a lot of families, many of whom are on a waiting list for a house in this area and I am sure they will be disappointed to learn that their wait will now be even longer.

"While I am hoping that North Lanarkshire Council will allocate some of these homes for Motherwell and Wishaw, I will also maintain pressure on SNP Ministers to step up their efforts.

"Alex Neil MSP is the Minister responsible for housing in Scotland and as an MSP for this region he should understand more than some others why new, affordable housing is essential at this time. He must do better than this."

Mr Neil said: "The Scottish Government is investing record amounts in affordable housing, more than £1.5 billion over three years, despite the tightest settlement from Westminster since devolution.

"This latest funding will help the successful local authorities to reverse decades of decline in council house building as well as safeguarding jobs, supporting the construction industry and keeping the economy moving."

North Lanarkshire Council say they were disappointed not to receive the full £4.6 million, but hope they can secure additional

funding in the near future.

Executive director of housing and social work services Mary Castles said: "While this council welcomes the £1m funding from the Scottish Government it falls short of our bid of £4.6m to provide new affordable homes in North Lanarkshire.

"However, with the Scottish Government's recent announcement of an additional £25m allocation for council house building we are hopeful that we will be successful in securing additional funding from the government towards our new build programme in the future.

"The funding of £1m is a contribution for 40 new build homes. This, together with the council's own approved investment programme will see £30m invested in new council housing in North Lanarkshire to deliver over 200 new affordable homes for rent across the area.

"In the current financial climate the need for high quality affordable housing is greater than ever, and along with our housing association partners we are committed to delivering as many additional new homes as we can.

"The first phase of our programme will go on site this summer in Holytown and we are progressing proposals for sites in a number of other locations throughout North Lanarkshire."

## Chloe is off to the races

**NEWMAINS girl Chloe Dewsnap is on a winner at Hamilton Park Racecourse. The 18-year-old will become a familiar face to punters there during the coming season after securing a promotions job. See story on page 5 for further details.**



## Man stabbed after weekend brawl at Wishaw nightclub

**A MAN was stabbed in an apparently unprovoked attack at Wishaw's Zico's nightclub during the early hours of Saturday morning.**

The 44-year-old was rushed to Wishaw General after being stabbed in the back, while a bouncer that went to his aid was also said to have been slashed and another beaten up.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident and have been studying CCTV footage from inside and outside the club.

The brawl unfolded in the venue on Kirk Road around 1.30pm, with the 44-year-old and two stewards being attacked. The 44-year-old was believed to still be receiving treatment in hospital this week.

Officers confirmed that three people had been arrested at the club but it was unclear as we went to press if this was in connection with the alleged stabbing.

DS Craig Hosie of Wishaw Police Office said: "At the time of the incident, the premises were busy and many people will have witnessed the initial incident and the disturbance which followed.

"I would therefore appeal for any information from anyone who may have witnessed the assault or can identify any of the persons involved."

Information should be reported to Wishaw Police Office on 01698 202600 or Crimestoppers free and confidentially on 0800 555 111.

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The Extra

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Ashley and Vicki, second and fourth from left respectively, and Chloe, far right, with the rest of the team and Hamilton Park's Ashley Moon and Lesley Robertson of Platform Promotions, centre.

# Glamour girls get set for the races

**TWO Hamilton girls and a Newmains teenager have beaten off stiff competition to be crowned Hamilton Park Racecourse's Faces of the Races winners.**

Vicki McCluskay (19) and Ashley Richardson (24) from Hamilton, and Chloe Dewsnape (18) of Newmains are in a team of eight glamorous Lanarkshire residents who have scooped a part-time position at the racecourse between May and September.

The competition was launched by local marketing company Platform Promotions in association with the racecourse to find new recruits to sell race cards to punters.

Ashley Moon, Hamilton Park's commercial manager, said: "We were very impressed with the large response from a high number of quality candidates for these positions, but we could only pick eight of them."

"Working at the racecourse will give them invaluable experience with one of Scotland's leading sporting venues."

The winners received a gift pack containing Fake Bake treats, a guest pass for Esporta and a photography package from Julie Lamont as a prize.



Vicki McCluskay and Ashley Richardson.

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