

APPENDIX A

Notes of: **BACUP AREA FORUM**

Venue: **Fearns High School, Stacksteads**

Date of Meeting **14 September 2006**

Present: **Councillor J Driver (in the Chair)**
Councillor W Challinor
Councillor C Lamb
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer (Rossendale)
Lancashire County Council
Inspector Dave Shepherd, Lancashire Constabulary
David Whiteman NEAT Manager, RBC
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer, RBC
Reshma Patel, Groundwork Rossendale

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and went on to express her disappointment that no members of the public had attended.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Farquharson and David McChesney, NEAT Officer, Rossendale Borough Council.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2006

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. THE OPEN SPACES AND PLAY STRATEGIES FOR ROSSENDALE

Reshma Patel, Groundwork Rossendale, gave a short presentation in respect of the Open Space and Play Strategies that Groundwork were working on for Rossendale Borough Council.

She went on explain that the problems of engaging with the teenagers and the lack of responses from that particular age group.

A steering group was being formed which included representatives from Parks Department, Youth Services, Housing, Oakenhead Forum and LSP theme groups.

Councillor Driver thanked Reshma for her presentation.

5. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Shepherd provided an update on crime statistics and initiatives which are taking place within the area.

Work was being undertaken on improving the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the Police were advising residents to take up this scheme and they had received some positive responses.

He went on to inform members of a recent Ministerial visit to look at the effectiveness of the Rossendale Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership which was the best in the Country and explained that the three year crime reduction target had already been achieved.

Inspector Shepherd indicated that the Police are looking for volunteers to assist Officers with neighbourhood type support including administration work and leaflet dropping in the Community.

All Crime in the Borough was down by 453 offences and the British Crime Survey crime down 361, damage down 172, violent crime down 111, vehicle crime down 78 . Burglary crime had increased by 1 and the Police were asking people to lock their doors even if they were in their homes.

6. NEAT TEAM UPDATE

Dave Whiteman updated members on the current work being carried out by the NEAT Team including the multi-agency project for Bonfire Night and explained that the Police, Community Safety, Fire Brigade and Greenvale Homes were working together to ensure zero tolerance for bonfires on Council land. A further meeting would take place to pull the Strategy together. He went on to explain the 'Bright Sparks Initiative' which was generated from Burnley Council in relation to firework safety.

Abandoned vehicle figures had dropped during the last three months to just 4 cars per month, possibly helped by the new legislations and the fast track system.

He then explained the education programme whereby a member of the NEAT team would be going into schools to give a comprehensive talk on the effects on the environment.

Councillor Driver thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 7.50pm