

Notes of: HASLINGDEN, EDENFIELD AND HELMSHORE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Edenfield Primary School

Date of Meeting: 18th June 2007

**PRESENT: Councillor D Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Morris, Sandiford, Essex, J. Pawson, Ruddick,
Smith, Dickinson, Thorne and Cheetham
Inspector Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary
PC Mulla, Lancashire Constabulary
Heidi Finlay, Neat Team Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**Approximately 10 members of the public and 2
representatives from the press attended the meeting.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Members, Officers and Police that were present at the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor S. Pawson.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 29th January 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that the actions raised were either complete or in the process of being actioned.

Councillor Ruddick provided a further update which had been received from the County Council in respect of the waiting restrictions on Lower Deardengate which had now been completed.

5. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Hodson provided an update on crime statistics, comparing 2006 to 2007, specific to Haslingden, Edenfield and Helmshore as detailed below:

Item	Position at 2006	Position at 2007
All Crimes	476	431
Burglaries in Dwellings	32	18
Vehicle Crime	58	59
Anti Social Behaviour	592	526
Stealing from shops/stalls	18	13
Burglaries in commercial properties, schools, sheds etc	27	29
Damage	128	105
Violent Crime	91	82

Inspector Hodson highlighted that there had been significant reductions in crime and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was the best performing in the country. He reported that out of the 431 crimes, 90 were detected (21%) and he had set a target for the current year of 35% detections.

Inspector Hodson also provided an update on Operation Vault (formerly the Ring of Steel) and Operation Summer Nights, dealing with Anti Social Behaviour matters.

In response to a question about whether particular areas were targeted during Operation Summer Nights, Inspector Hodson reported that work was intelligence led and in the main undertaken at weekends and evenings.

Councillor Sandiford acknowledged the additional attention that the Police were focusing on Victoria Park as this had been raised as an area of concern by residents for anti social behaviour incidents.

PC Mulla provided an update on the work of the community policing team and reported on the proactive approach being taken on drug dealers. He was pleased to report on a recent conviction of an individual which the Police had been successful in obtaining.

The meeting were informed of a joint operation between the Police and the DVLA on untaxed vehicles and checking insurance of vehicles.

The meeting were also informed of the educational programme the Police were promoting in primary schools and were notified of a Youth PACT meeting which had been established.

An update was given on the community radio system which businesses and pubs in Haslingden had access to so that they should share intelligence.

PC Mulla highlighted the Fun Day which was taking place on 21st July 2007 encouraging young people to litter pick and then participate in sports. He encouraged people to attend the event which was starting at 10am at Haslingden Sports Centre.

The meeting were informed that a Swedish Officer had been on a work placement in Haslingden last week to shadow and observe neighbourhood policing in the area. It was noted that Pennine was a pathfinder and rated as excellent in this area of work.

In response to a question about enforcement of the Smokefree Legislation Councillor Ruddick reported that the Council had appointed an officer to support businesses on implementing the legislation.

The Chair thanked Inspector Hodson and PC Mulla for their attendance.

6. NEAT TEAM UPDATE

Heidi Finlay, NEAT Team Manager presented an update on the work of the NEAT Team since the last meeting.

Heidi provided information on the role of the NEAT Team and indicated that over the last quarter 400 complaints had been responded to.

In response to an issue raised at the last meeting regarding Ewood Bridge Mill, Heidi reported that this was a longer term issue which the Planning Department and Environment Agency were investigating.

Another long term matter was the bin storage on Blackburn Road. Heidi informed the meeting that designs were being developed for a communal bin store.

Heidi reported on proposals for an alley gating scheme on Manchester Road, Haslingden which would benefit residents as it was hoped anti social behaviour incidents would be reduced through the introduction of the scheme.

The meeting were informed that work was due to commence on the Halo panopticon in July and it was hoped to be launched in September.

The meeting were also informed of the proactive education that the team were rolling out in schools. A mascot had been developed as an educational tool and

the name "Mr Clean" was selected as the winner which had been submitted by a child from Thorn Primary School.

A number of questions were raised from the floor and are summarised below.

Concern was raised about grass cuttings being left on site rather than being collected. This was raised as an issue of concern in all areas and Edenfield Recreation Ground was a particular example given.

In response to a question about Japanese Knotweed it was noted that 2 sites were currently being treated in Haslingden. If it was on private land however, the land owner was responsible.

A question was raised about whether the Council could approach a company with a view to providing a bin for its employees so they could dispose of cigarette ends. Heidi agreed to speak to the company to see if the issue could be resolved.

It was reported that the opening of Edenfield Community Centre was taking place on Saturday and a request was made for weed treatment prior to the event.

Concerns were raised about a vehicle on Market Street which had some damage. A request was made for the Council to investigate if the vehicle could be removed.

A question was raised about land opposite Horncliffe Mansion and vegetation which needed cutting back. Concern was also raised about a crack in a retaining wall which required attention.

Concerns were raised about litter bins and it was reported that on windy days, the bags blew out of the bins. Heidi reported that the Council were looking at the phased introduction of freestanding bins.

The meeting commended the Council Officer that worked in Edenfield keeping the area tidy.

7. HOT TOPIC – GRANT ALLOCATIONS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Councillor Ruddick reported on a scheme which would be considered by Full Council on 27 June regarding allocating grants to the Neighbourhood Fora.

It was proposed that £6,220 would be allocated to the Haslingden, Edenfield and Helmshore Neighbourhood Forum.

Councillor Ruddick highlighted that the first step would be to contact the NEAT Team to discuss proposals and applications for the September Neighbourhood Forum would have to be received by the Council on 31st August.

8. NOMINATION TO NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM WORKING GROUP

Councillor Ruddick explained that a Working Group would be established to consider grant applications and make recommendations to the Neighbourhood Forum.

It was agreed that Councillors Cheetham, Essex and Sandiford be nominated to serve on the Working Group.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTICE BOARDS

Councillor Ruddick invited suggestions to be put forward for possible sites for neighbourhood notice boards. The following suggestions were made:

A second notice board in Edenfield
Strongstry
Rising Bridge
Haslingden Town Centre
Ewood Bridge
Rising Bridge
Turn Village (utilise the bus shelter)

Councillor Ruddick reported that not all suggestions may be taken forward but all would be looked into.

10. OPEN FORUM

A number of questions were raised by the floor as summarised below:

A request was made for the Council to liaise with the County council regarding grass cutting throughout the area. Concern was raised about the cycle of grass cutting and cuttings that were left in situ.

It was reported that Stubbins and Strongstry had entered North West in Bloom and a viewing would be held on 12 July 2007.

It was reported that the Horticultural Society had worked on Edenfield Memorial Garden and the site now looked lovely.

A question was raised about the wind farm development and a request was made to the County Council to give residents as much notice as possible for moving parked vehicles when the wind turbines were being transported into the area.

Concern was raised about progress at Stubbins Vale Road. Councillor Smith reported on the County Council's proposed timescale of the end of the year and

he and Councillor Ruddick were in contact with the County to ensure that this was progressed.

It was suggested that the Council look at creating Town Councils and Whitworth was highlighted as a good example. Councillor Ruddick reported that a Government White Paper encouraged more involvement in neighbourhoods including the creation of Town Councils to increase democracy at a local level.

Councillor Ruddick thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.00P.M. AND CLOSED AT 8.25P.M.