

Notes of: BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Maden Centre, Bacup

Date of Meeting: 21st January 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor W Challinor (in the Chair)
Councillors Driver, Durkin, Haworth, Lamb and Steen
County Councillor Serridge, Lancashire County Council
Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary
Dave McChesney, NEAT Officer
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Jo Gibbs, Assistant District Partnership Officer -
Rossendale
Councillor Essex. Portfolio Holder, Well Managed Council**

6 members of the public and 1 representative from the press attended the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on 24th September 2007 were circulated and the following actions were fed back to the meeting:-

- a) Councillor Challinor was unable to attend the last meeting of the Highways Committee and therefore would raise the issue of the Pennine Road Quarry at the next meeting.
- b) Inspector Wilkinson reported that 30 children were stopped and searched for alcohol, with 25 of those below 18 years old and 5 were for drinking on the streets.

It was agreed:

That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

4. Police update

The Forum welcomed Inspector Neil Wilkinson, who provided an update on police performance.

- Detection rate overall was 38.8%
- Detection rate for violent crime was 60%
- Detection rate for criminal damage was 29%
- All crime - 260 over the last 3 months down from 274 over the same period last year
- Auto crime down from 64 last year to 27 this year
- Violent crime up with 49 last year to 56 this year

Inspector Wilkinson highlighted that detection rates were one of the highest in the Country.

In response to a question in relation to drinking on streets, Inspector Wilkinson indicated that during November and December 'Operation Sherlock' visited pubs in conjunction with Council Officers to highlight the issue. There was also an increase in Police presence on the streets.

In response to a question in relation to PACT meetings, Inspector Wilkinson indicated that these were still being held. Elected Members raised concern that they had not been informed of these meetings for some time. Inspector Wilkinson agreed to make enquiries and ensure that Members were informed of future meetings.

In response to a question from a member of the public in relation to the Police attending the Bacup Easter Festival at Bacup Leisure Hall, Inspector Wilkinson confirmed that he would ensure that the Police would have a stall at the event.

5. BUDGET CONSULTATION

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council gave a presentation on the Budget Consultation for 2008/09 and he referred to the budget consultation document which had been circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Essex reported that the budget would focus on the Pride in Rossendale as a place to live, work and visit through a number of ways including:

- improved floral displays
- improved maintenance of gateway sites and improved signage
- providing free access to leisure facilities for the families of regular service people living in Rossendale
- improvements to the maintenance regime for war memorials and memorial gardens

Councillor Essex indicated that there was a clear indication that the standards of service provided by the Council were improving.

A question was raised in relation to Rossendale in Bloom and that thought be given to working with the 'Close to the Hedge' project. Councillor Driver indicated that this had already been discussed.

In response to a question raised by a member of the public in relation to post mounted litter bins with green liners, Councillor Driver commented that the Council was looking at a programme throughout Rossendale and new bins would be provided in town centres, towns and villages.

A member of the public praised the Council on improvements being made in Rossendale and asked how community groups and others could influence how money was being spent. Councillor Driver responded by commenting that through interaction with the community through Lancashire Locals and the Neighbourhood Forums was the ideal way to influence and engage with both Elected Members and Officers of the Council.

Councillor Essex encouraged the Forum to take the consultation document away and any comments could be sent by email to budget@rossendalebc.gov.uk

6. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Councillor Challinor reported that he had received a thank you letter from the Horse and Bamboo following the award of their grant.

Councillor Challinor reported the receipt of two applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. He outlined the recommendations of the Working Group as detailed below.

A request for additional information in relation to the Bacup Film Festival had been requested before agreement to the release of the money, as Members were unsure as to whether the Bacup Film Festival had actually gone ahead.

A representative from the organisation in attendance at the meeting confirmed that the Festival did not happen as they had not received confirmation that the money would be awarded.

Concern was raised at the process being used as the Neighbourhood Forums only met every 3 months and this sometimes overlapped with applications needing approval before the Forum had met to discuss the grants. Councillor Driver indicated that the awarding of grants was new to the Council and the process would be reviewed.

Another member of the public indicated that it may be appropriate for Bacup Film Festival to showcase their entrants' films at the Easter Festival to be held on 22 March at Bacup Leisure Hall.

Confirmation was required as to whether the application could be accepted or whether a further one would need to be completed. Elected Members indicated that they would accept the grant.

Organisation	Application Details	Amount Awarded
Bacup Film Festival c/o Rossendale Academy of Arts	Wish to showcase the entrants films in Bacup Leisure Hall	£750
Sunnycrest Community Enterprises	Funds requested to help with the costs of a Christmas party for children attending the facility	£500
	Remaining in budget	£2320.00

Balance from last meeting = £3,570
 Amount Allocated This Meeting = £1,250
 Remaining budget = £2,320

It was noted that £2320 remained available for March's Forum and that grant forms could be obtained from Democratic Services on 01706 252426 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk The deadline for receipt of applications is 29th February.

Resolved:

That the grants be agreed.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTICE BOARDS

Dave McChesney reported that each Forum had been allocated funds for two notice boards and he outlined the previous suggestions which had been made. He indicated that they would be for use by the Council and the Community and contact details would be available on the Boards.

The Forum welcomed the idea for the notice boards and agreed that they be located in the following areas.

- Bacup – Irwell Terrace on completion of work being undertaken at the present time
- Stacksteads – Next to Toll Bar

In response to a question about renovations in Bacup through the Elevate project, Dave McChesney confirmed that work on relaying of flags on Mill Street and Holmes Lane was due to start shortly.

8. OPEN FORUM

A member of the public updated the meeting in respect of work being undertaken on the Culvert, which should be finished before the end of May.

The meeting considered the use of different locations for the Neighbourhood Forums including Bacup Leisure Hall and the A, B & D building. It was agreed that the Maden Centre had appropriate parking and was a central location.

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 13 March 2008.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 7pm and closed at 8.15pm)

Signed

(Chair)

Date