

**Notes of:** RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

**Venue:** Waterfoot Primary School, Cloughfold Site, Peel Street, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LJ

**Date of Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008

**PRESENT:** Councillor Swain (in the Chair)  
Councillors Crawforth, Farrington, Forshaw , Gill, Nuttall, and Robertson  
PS Stuart Greenwood, Lancashire Constabulary  
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer – Lancashire County Council  
David Whiteman, NEAT Manager  
Alec Tattersall, NEAT Officer  
Phil Seddon, Head of Financial Services  
Carolyn Law, Committee and Member Services Officer

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

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## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A.Barnes, Graham, Hancock, Tickner and also from Inspector Dave Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary.

## **3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were approved subject to the following changes:

Page 3 – last item on the grant allocation table should read “Nil” showing no money was allocated to the Horse & Bamboo Theatre Company, and the total awarded should be £3,500.

Page 4 – the gulley cleaning question related to the bottom of Oakley.

An update was provided on actions from the previous meeting. The NEAT Manager agreed to follow up the list of Cleansing Staff contact details for Councillor Forshaw. Grants agreed at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September had now been allocated. The District Partnership Officer for Lancashire County Council confirmed that the frequency of gulley cleaning was once a year on Schofield Road, Barratt Road and the bottom of Oakley.

Councillor Forshaw expressed concern about the tidiness and cleanliness of the rear of the shops on Bank Street. In response, the NEAT Team confirmed that they had been working with businesses to improve the situation.

Councillor Forshaw requested that that the Council contact the owner of a piece of land near the car park on Bank Street, which is currently fenced off, to discuss its future use. The Chair agreed to ensure the owner was contacted and invited to a meeting.

#### **4. POLICE UPDATE**

Stuart Greenwood, Community Engagement Sgt at Haslingden and Rawtenstall, updated the Forum on policing.

Detection Rate for Rossendale West for Year to Date (YTD) April - now stands at 37.6% which is better than the Constabularies 34.7% and Pennine at 34.3%. Although violent crime has increased slightly (for the year) detection rates are high at 63.3% (YTD). On this quarter all crime is showing a reduction of 37 offences with a 28.75% detection rate. Violent crime was at 54% and shoplifting at 68%. An area that has increased is Robbery of Business premises showing 2 offences with one detection (no offences same quarter last year).

In response to questions from the public Sgt Greenwood informed the meeting that people being detained were transferred to Burnley. This would still be the procedure when the new premises at Waterfoot were opened and the Burnley division were looking at a larger facility. The new Waterfoot premises would have the same opening hours as Rawtenstall 8am-8pm, and it would be staffed at all times with calls going through an enquiry line. A service would also continue from Rawtenstall. A member of the public asked what would be done to improve access to Sandy House Bungalows as there had been an issue with emergency services being unable to access previously, and would the new Waterfoot premises impact on this. Sgt Greenwood informed the meeting that the new station was going through the planning stages and had gone out to tender, so far 3 tenders had been received. He further reported that there would be secure parking for police vehicles at the rear with bays available at the front.

In response to questions by Councillors Sgt Greenwood agreed to investigate why some PACT meetings were well advertised whilst others are not advertised at all.

#### **5. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS & FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS**

Councillor Swain reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. He informed the meeting that

£2,189 had been allocated and the remainder of the funding £1,571 would be allocated at future meetings. The Working Group was recommending approval of the following:

| NEAT Manager Consulted | Organisation Name                 | £ Requested    | Purpose of Grant   | Granted (Yes or No) If No, state reason for refusal | Funding Granted |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------|
| Alec Tattersall        | Water Village Trust               | 750.00         | Purchase of new goal posts and nets for proposed football area.            | Yes   | 750.00          |
| Claire Angus           | Cribden Neighbourhood Association | 744.00         | Installation and safety surfacing of a hedgehog springer (play equipment). | Yes   | 744.00          |
| Claire Angus           | Cribden Neighbourhood Association | 695.00         | Supply and installation of bench for community use.                        | Yes   | 695.00          |
|                        | <b>Total Applied For</b>          | <b>2189.00</b> |  | <b>Total Awarded</b>                                | <b>2189.00</b>  |

Balance from last meeting = £3,760  
 Amount Allocated This Meeting = £2,189  
 Remaining budget = £1,571

The Neighbourhood Forum encouraged people to apply for the remaining funding. Forms would be available from the Democratic Services Team and the deadline for the next round would be 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

The NEAT Manager informed the meeting that there was also grant money available through Lancashire Greener Wards, and grant forms for this would be available through the NEAT Team.

IT WAS AGREED – That the grants as detailed above be awarded.

## 6. Hot Topic – Budget Consultation

The Head of Financial Services delivered a presentation identifying the budget proposals for 2008/09. The proposals identified the 11.5 million budget for 2008/09, the current cost of business, saving proposals and investment

proposals. He further reported that the increase in Council Tax of 2.5% was less than inflation. Questions and feedback was invited from members of the public on the proposals.

In response to questions from members of the public the Head of Financial Services confirmed that the collection of Council Tax was done by Capita, which costs less and has increased revenue. He further confirmed that revenue from the disposal of assets was used on priorities.

A member of the public suggested that the Council should go back to weekly refuse collections. The Head of Financial Services and the Chair responded by informing the meeting that this would increase costs and would also impact on Council Tax.

Councillor Forshaw asked a question relating to the money allocated to improvements on parks and whether there was any public consultation to ensure money was spent appropriately. The Head of Financial Services informed the meeting that this was included in the Play Strategy. The Chair also informed the meeting that Groundwork had initially sent out documents for consultation and invited consultations with the public. Councillor Forshaw requested the Chair to look into whether working groups could be set up for specific areas similar to the Christmas Lights Working Group. The Chair agreed to feed back on working groups for parks.

## **7. NEAT Update**

The NEAT Manager informed the meeting that they were receiving good feedback on the Town Centre Caretakers. They were able to look at areas requiring additional attention, or if it was something they were unable to action themselves they could request someone from the team to investigate. Recycling had increased since the introduction of the Recycling Policy, and the NEAT Team were working with Greenvale Homes on resolving some minor issues. The NEAT Team were also still offering packs to enable people to do their own waste audits. In response to a question concerning recycling the NEAT Manager confirmed that envelopes could be recycled.

In response to questions from members of the public the NEAT Manager confirmed that the footpath sweepers were on a schedule and were responsible for cleaning all sections they were assigned to and would ring back if there was an area requiring investigation. The NEAT Manager agreed to investigate the cleaning of a path on Oakley and who the land belonged to.

Councillor Gill raised a question concerning cutting back the branches at the base of the trees on Burnley Road on the section between Leeches Scrap Yard and the Craven Heifer. The NEAT Manager agreed to investigate this.

Councillor Forshaw raised a question concerning painting the floor inside Rawtenstall Market. The NEAT Manager informed the meeting that it was an

asphalt floor which was required to be sealed, if painted it would become hazardous, and it would be very costly to replace the floor completely. The floor was, however, cleaned on a regular basis.

Cllr Forshaw also raised concerns about road markings and surface conditions at the junction of Schofield Road and Hargreaves Drive and requested an update from Lancashire County Council. The District Partnership Officer for Lancashire County Council agreed to forward this information to the appropriate person and feed back to a future meeting.

Councillor Robertson raised a question asking why contractors installing street lighting in Rawtenstall had left debris overnight which had invited vandalism in the town centre. The District Partnership Officer for Lancashire County Council agreed to follow this up.

### **- Neighbourhood Notice Boards**

Councillor Swain reported that 2 notice boards would not be enough to keep people informed, and a suggestion was made to investigate possible sources of funding. The Head of Financial Services confirmed that environmental funding was available. Suggestions were put forward for notice boards in the following areas: Rawtenstall, Waterfoot, Crawshawbooth and Lumb. Members were requested to forward recommendations to the Chair concerning the location of the notice boards. Members were asked to consider where the notice boards would serve the community the most.

## **8. Open Forum**

A summary of the questions raised during public question time are detailed below:

A member of the public raised a question concerning the Valley Centre application. The Chair informed the meeting that information would be publicised once all details had been confirmed, and if anyone would like to speak for or against the application they could register to speak once the agenda had been published. Plans were also currently available to view at the One Stop Shop. The member of the public requested to be notified when the meeting was agreed. Democratic Services would forward information as soon as the agenda was published.

A member of the public noted that the One Stop Shop looked as though it was closed and asked if a notice could be put up to inform people that it was open and which way to enter. The Chair agreed to look into placing a notice outside.

A member of the public requested information on the frequency of gully cleaning. The District Partnership Officer for Lancashire County Council agreed to request information and feed back to a future meeting.

A member of the public noted that the clock at Rawtenstall Railway Station was not working and requested information when it would be repaired. It was noted that it was the responsibility of East Lancashire Railways to maintain the clock. Councillor Nuttall informed the meeting that the clock was not working as a result of thunderstorm damage, however there were plans to repair the damage and upgrade the clock to ensure it would keep the correct time once repaired.

**THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.00pm AND CLOSED AT 8.20pm**