

Notes of: WHITWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Whitworth Civic Hall

Date of Meeting 29th September 2008

Present: Councillor R Wilson (Chair)
Councillor T Aldred
County Councillor S Serridge
Whitworth Town Councillor D Barnes
J Jackson, Area Manager, Communities Team
M Riley, Communities Manager
J Smith, Elections Manager

Also Present: 13 members of the Public

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Officers present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Linda Barnes and Alan Neal, the Police and Linda Fisher.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2008

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

a) Action Sheet:

The Action sheet was discussed and updates since publication of the agenda were noted.

4. POLICE UPDATE

The police had offered to report back to the next meeting on any items raised at this meeting, however as a Police PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting was being held in Whitworth at 7.00pm on Friday 3rd October, members of the public decided to discuss issues there.

5. AREA MANAGER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Julie Jackson, Area Manager - Communities Team, provided the Forum with a report of issues dealt with from March 2008 including the number of service requests, notices served and prosecutions brought. She highlighted that a long standing non-compliance of a Section 215 Notice at Whitworth Conservative Club had resulted in a £1,000 fine with £1,000 costs.

Mike Riley, Communities Manager, presented a report on Christmas Lights explaining that this area was being transferred from the Christmas Lights Working Group to the Neighbourhood Forums.

It was agreed: (1) That the recommendations in the Christmas Lights report be agreed with the exception of the date and time of the Whitworth switch on; and

(2) That refreshments and a band, similar to those arranged for Bacup and Rawtenstall, be requested for the Whitworth switch on.

6. PRIDE IN ROSSENDALE

Mr Riley explained that 'Pride in Rossendale' is primarily about delivering physical improvements based on the Neighbourhood Forum's aim for a cleaner, safer and more prosperous environment. It is about instilling a true sense of pride and ownership in the people who live, work and visit Rossendale.

A Key role for the Neighbourhood Forum is to raise awareness of Pride in Rossendale and feedback what you think through our dedicated website, www.rossendale.gov.uk/prideinrossendale email pride@rossendalebc.gov.uk write to Julie Jackson at Stubblelee.

A 'Working Group' of councillor's and officer are overseeing the project who will report progress through Cabinet, the Neighbourhood Forums, and the Rossendale Partnership.

The meeting discussed a variety of issues they felt would improve the area such as an increase in waste/dog bins; restoring dry stone walling; providing public conveniences; and cutting back over-hanging brambles.

Councillor Sean Serridge thought that civic pride was already strong in Whitworth as witnessed by the new Civic Centre, swimming baths, work at Shawforth Chapel, flower beds and well supported Area Forum.

It was agreed: That the Area Manager would provide Pride in Rossendale update reports to future Neighbourhood Forum meetings

7. DETERMINING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Chair invited feedback from the recipients of previous grants and reported that £500 had been allocated to the Community Leisure Association of Whitworth to improve the area at the back of the Leisure Centre and £340 had been allocated to the Whitworth Playgroup to provide safety matting for the climbing frame purchased with funding from the Forum last year.

Starting balance for 2008/2009	£2640.00
Funds allocated at this meeting	£840.00
Remaining in budget	£1800.00

Grant forms could be obtained from Democratic Services on 01706 252424 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

8. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Road congestion caused by temporary traffic lights
- Road calming measures
- Disabled parking spaces at the public baths
- Ground drainage at Whitworth football club
- Repairs to Shawforth Iron Bridge
- Repairs to and removal of trees from retaining wall at Shawforth / Brittonia
- Provision of bmx track and alternatives currently provided by Youth & Community Services

The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 8.40pm

Signed: _____
(Chair)

Date: _____

