

Notes of: BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Maden Centre, Rochdale Road, Bacup

Date of Meeting: 7 October 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor W Challinor (in the Chair)
Councillors Eaton and P Steen**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Julie Jackson, Area Manager, Communities
County Councillor Serridge, Lancashire County Council
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
19 members of the public
1 Press**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair updated the meeting with information on the following items:

- State of the Borough Debate which would be held at 6.30pm on 26 November at St Mary's Chambers. He asked those interested in receiving an invite to complete the form with their contact details.
- A revised Action Plan had been circulated at the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Driver, Haworth, Lamb, and H Steen.

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

The Chair updated the meeting on the actions from the meeting held on 3 July 2008.

A member of the public indicated that action to remove rubbish from an area of land near the site of the Ambulance Station in Blackwood Road had still not been undertaken. The Area Manager confirmed that she had received a

response to a letter she had sent asking for the rubbish to be cleared and although some items had been removed she would make further enquiries asking for all items to be removed. She agreed to report back to the next meeting.

A member of the public indicated that the main issue in relation to Farholme Lane was the size of lorries. Councillor Eaton agreed to make further enquiries on the issue and report back to the meeting.

In relation to a sign being erected on Farholme Lane/Acre Mill Road/Cutler Crescent where one section of road narrows. Clarification was requested from Lancashire County Council as to when the sign would be erected. County Councillors Serridge and Eaton agreed to make enquiries and discuss further at Lancashire Local.

County Councillor Serridge updated the meeting on the zebra crossing on Newchurch Road and confirmed that at the March meeting he agreed to take the issue to Lancashire Local. It was agreed that monitoring would take place over a period of time. He would present a further update at the next meeting.

The Area Manager agreed to report progress on the safety of the wall at Blackwood Bridge following a meeting on 13 October between Property Services and the owners of the lease.

A question was raised in relation to the Bacup Community Action Plan and the Communities Manager gave a brief update.

He indicated that the Sustainable Community Strategy would make actions at top level more meaningful at local level.

He explained that at the present time he was in the process of proposing new arrangements for Neighbourhood Forums and how they would function in the future. The new arrangements would take place in Jan-Feb next year, although a lot more work was taking place in the interim.

4. Police Update

Inspector Wilkinson provided an update on Police performance between July and September as follows:

All crime – 504 in Irwell and 801 in Greensclough
Burglary – 7 in Irwell and 15 in Greensclough
Vehicle crime – 20 Irwell and 25 Greensclough

He informed members of the following:

New Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been set up
Officers had attended a charity event at Stubbylee Hall
Open day at Bacup Fire Station
Bacup traders invited to attend the CCTV room in Burnley.

A number of questions were raised by the public including:

- What was done to help repeat offenders and the Inspector gave a brief overview of the treatment offered to alcohol/drug users
- Does the CCTV in Stacksteads work, to which the Inspector confirmed that as far as he was aware, did work
- Noise from local bar, to which Inspector Wilkinson indicated that he had not received any complaints

Councillor Eaton indicated that he had been into Bacup Park over the weekend picking up cans and bottles from youths congregating in the Park. The Police agreed to undertake a visit at weekend.

5. Area Manager, Communities Update

The Area Manager provided an update on the work of the Area Officers since the last meeting including the number of service requests, Elevate projects and local consultation on Dale Street.

A concern was raised in relation to youths throwing bottles into long grass near the youth shelter in Stacksteads, which apparently had not been cut since March 2008. County Councillor Serridge agreed to make enquiries.

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.

A member of the public indicated that it would not be appropriate for the switch on of the Christmas lights in Bacup to be in line with the Victorian Market and the Communities Manager agreed to discuss this further with the member of the public.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Christmas Lights report be agreed.

6. Pride in Rossendale

The Communities Manager 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 was 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 was to raise awareness of Pride in Rossendale and feedback what the public think through the Council's dedicated website, www.rossendale.gov.uk/prideinrossendale or email pride@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

A 'Working Group' of councillor's and officers were overseeing the project and would report progress through Cabinet, the Neighbourhood Forums, and the Rossendale Partnership.

Work had already commenced on providing more floral displays, new bins, free leisure for service men and women, improvements to the Borough's war memorials and the Council have employed Town Caretakers.

The Communities Manager indicated that the Council would welcome ideas from the public in taking the initiative forward.

The meeting discussed a variety of issues they felt would improve the area such as an additional waste bins at some bus stops and planters on Market Street. Councillor Serridge agreed to take up the issue of additional waste bins at bus stops.

A member of the public informed the Forum that the public had organised a 'clean up' themselves and the Communities Manager agreed to provide 'litter pickers' and black bags.

Resolved

That the information be noted.

7. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS & FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

The Chair invited feedback from the recipients of previous grants. He informed the Forum that two organisations had not returned receipts for the full grants they had been given. The working group had further discussion and it was agreed that the small amounts of money outstanding could be used within their organisations.

The Chair reported the receipt of nine applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. He outlined the recommendations of the Working Group as detailed below.

Organisation	Amount Awarded
Rossendale Shotokan Karate Club	£500
Rossendale Rubicon	Nil (more info required)
Alf's Blackbelt Academy	£500
Tunstead Pre-School	Nil
Stacksteads Country-side Park Group/Rossendale Rubicon	Nil (the Council looking at providing suitable location for their requirement)
Aged Blind and Disabled Centre	£600
Central Methodist Church	£400
Northwest Academy of Arts	Nil
Ramsey Street Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Nil
Total given	£2000

Balance from last meeting £4390
Funds allocated at this meeting £2000
Balance carried forward to next meeting **£2390**

Applications were welcomed and application forms could be obtained from the Democratic Services Team on 01706 252422 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk The deadline for receipt of applications for the next round of grants was 2 December 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

7. OPEN FORUM

A number of questions were raised in relation to the following.

- Parking at the Health Centre
- Double yellow lines which had almost vanished - Blackburn Road/Newchurch Road/River Bridge. With increased traffic lots of near misses. Councillor Eaton agreed to arrange a site visit with the appropriate people
- Need for traffic calming (20mph) on estate at Thorn Bank/Tonge Lane and up to St Mary's School.
- Putting together of the Bacup/Stacksteads Carnival in Stubbylee Park. Which the Communities Manager agreed needed further discussion as it fits in with the Pride of Rossendale.
- Free swimming for the over 65s
- A member gave a written question to County Councillor Serridge who agreed to seek information and respond direct to the member of public

The Chair informed the Forum that there was ongoing discussion with Lancashire County Council and the bus company in relation to the roundabout at Todmorden Road and Lanehead Lane.

He indicated that the whole of the Bacup Centre was being looked at.

Date of the next meeting: 26 January 2009

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.50pm)

Signed: _____
(Chair)

Date: _____