

**Notes of: WHITWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**Venue: Whitworth Civic Hall**

**Date of Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Present: Councillor L. Barnes (Chair)  
Councillors Aldred, Neal and Wilson  
County Councillor S Serridge  
Whitworth Town Councillor D. Barnes  
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance  
Catherine Taylor, Area Manager, Communities Team  
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager  
Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary  
PCSO Heidi Kirkbright, Lancashire Constabulary**

**Also Present: 20 members of the Public**

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**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were submitted.

**3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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. It was agreed that those actions that were outstanding would be carried over to the next meeting so that an update could be given.

#### 4. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Wilkinson provided an update on crime rates and policing in the area and explained that there had been an increase for the same period in the previous year.

	October – December 2007	October – December 2008
All Crime	67	107
Damage	19	51
Vehicle Crime	14	19
Robbery	0	1

As a result a 3 month action plan was being implemented and additional police resource would be in place over the next 3 months and reviewed thereafter.

Inspector Wilkinson referred to incidents of racist damage and he encouraged the Forum to report any incidents.

Inspector Wilkinson informed the meeting of his new telephone number 012/82 237303.

Inspector Wilkinson and PCSO Kirkbright responded to a number of questions as summarised below:-

- Anti social behaviour in the Milner Street area. It was agreed that a partnership approach could help to resolve the issues which were raised.
- Auto Number Plate Recognition – It was reported that an exercise would be undertaken.

#### 5. ROAD CASUALTY FIGURES

The Chair referred to the road casualty figures that had been circulated at the meeting. The meeting were pleased to note the decrease in casualties.

In considering the statistics the meeting discussed the following:-

- Speed Indicator Display signs (SpIDs). It was agreed that they were an effective tool for the vast majority of the public.

- Speed indicator signs on The Prom and Market Street. County Councillor Serridge reported that repeater signs could not be used as this would be contrary to the Highway Code. Other types of signs would be erected. A full road safety assessment would be undertaken.
- Market Street – double yellow lines. County Councillor Serridge reported that a Traffic Regulation Order was in place and the yellow lines would be going back.

## **6. AREA MANAGER COMMUNITIES UPDATE**

Catherine Taylor, Area Manager - Communities Team, provided the Forum with a report on the work of the Team. She informed the meeting that there had been 509 requests for service, 85 of which were for the Whitworth and Shawforth areas.

Catherine Taylor provided an update on specific projects as summarised below:-

- Grot Spot competition. Eagley Bank, Shawforth had been one of the sites to be tidied up in a recent competition. This should be complete by the end of February.
- 90 new freestanding bins would be installed throughout the Borough commencing the last week in January.
- The Council had appointed a Community Engagement Officer, Gemma Rouke to support new and established groups within Rossendale.

A number of questions were raised as summarised below:-

- Recycling of low energy lightbulbs.
- Dog fouling in various areas
- Leavengreave pitch
- Request for sweeping Market Street near Grove Terrace, Whitworth
- Positive news was given in relation to the reduction of problems relating to dog fouling now that new dog bins had been placed on Old Lane
- Positive news was given in relation to road sweeping at Wallbank

## **7. BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Phil Seddon, the Head of Finance presented information regarding the budget for 2009/10. He explained that the Council were seeking the views of the public and he provided an overview of the budget process as summarised below:-

- Outline of how the money is spent
- Achievements
- Future plans
- Prioritisation
- Financial Planning
- Budget pressures
- Current Costs
- Efficiency Proposals
- Areas of Focus and Investment

A number of comments and questions were raised as summarised below:-

- Council Tax collection rates
- How to find efficiency savings
- Recent information in the press about spending on PR
- Leisure Provision
- Bus service provision – a request was made to extend the 464 bus service to go from Rochdale Bus Station to Rochdale Train Station
- Which areas would see an increase in charges
- How much reserves the Council had

The Chair thanked Phil Seddon for his presentation.

## **8. DETERMINING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Chair reported the receipt of two applications for neighbourhood forum grant funding.

It was agreed that the following would be allocated:-

£400 for Whitworth Sports Council for a feasibility study of a project to create an all weather pitch and clubhouse and changing facilities at Leavengreave Playing Field Shawforth.

The application from the Whitworth Elderly and Disabled Care Trust was to be deferred to the next meeting so that further information could be obtained about the proposal.

Starting balance from last meeting	£1800.00
Funds allocated at this meeting	£400.00
Remaining in budget	£1400.00

Grant forms could be obtained from Democratic Services on 01706 252424 or by emailing [democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

## 9. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following issues:-

- Day Care Centre, Market Street – concerns about zebra crossing and elderly people crossing sign needs replacing. County Councillor Serridge agreed to look into this.
- An update was requested on Orama Mill and when it would be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee
- Gritting. Several comments were made about gritting. It was reported that Lancashire County Council were the highway authority responsible for this area. County Councillor Serridge agreed to look into the comments that were made regarding liability of gritting footpaths.

**The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 9.00pm**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_