

Notes of: RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: The Old Fire Station, Burnley Road, Rawtenstall

Date of Meeting: 25th June 2009

Present: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)
(Councillors) Councillors A Barnes, Farrington, Forshaw, Gill, Gledhill, Nuttall and Robertson

Also Present: Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Alison Wilkins, Area Manager
Adrian Smith, Principal Planner – Forward Planning
Jenni Cook, Committee Officer
PC Romasantha, Lancashire Constabulary
PCSO Pepper, Lancashire Constabulary
Susan Wilson, LINKS

Approximately 30 members of the public and 1 representative of the press attended the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public and asked Elected Members and Officers to introduce themselves to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crawforth, Graham, May, J Pilling and Unsworth.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Winder and Smith and Mr J Smith – Lancashire County Council District Partnership Officer.

In addition apologies were received from Inspector Hodson of Lancashire Constabulary.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

a) The notes of the meeting held on 23rd March January 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

b) Action sheet:

Updates were given on actions from previous meetings and the following issues were discussed:

- Lord Street – it was noted that Bocholt Way should read 'St Mary's Way'.
- The Planning Manager would be asked to arrange regular meetings with the Chair of Waterfoot Forward.

4. CORE STRATEGY: CRAWSHAWBOOTH, GOODSHAW AND LOVECLOUGH AREA VISION

Adrian Smith delivered a presentation which outlined the Crawshawbooth, Goodshaw and Loveclough Area Vision consultation document which forms part of the Core Strategy for the Borough. It was noted that the current consultation was a precursor to a much larger consultation process on preferred options which would be commence in September. Residents were invited to comment on the Core Strategy and to express their thoughts and ideas.

After the presentation, an extensive debate and question and answer session took place.

It was noted that there would be a further meeting on the current options organised by Councillor A Barnes on Tuesday 30th June at the Community Centre.

Thanks were given to Adrian Smith for attending the meeting and for his presentation.

5. POLICE UPDATE

PC Frank Romasantha introduced PCSO John Pepper to the meeting and provided a general overview of crime statistics for the last 3 months as a comparison with the previous year. It was noted that there had been a general increase in crime compared with the previous year.

PC Romasantha outlined current initiatives which were being carried out by Lancashire Constabulary, along with future initiatives.

The following issues were discussed:-

- 'Cardboard cut-out' Police – a brief statement was given with regards to this scheme.
- Advice was given on how to access the speed camera to be used in conjunction with schools.
- Recent disturbance on Bank Street.

Thanks were given to PC Romasantha for his informative presentation.

6. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKs)

Susan Wilson, the LINKs Community Engagement Officer gave a presentation on Local Involvement Networks. LINKs was a government initiative to give community groups, organisations and members of the public a stronger voice on Health and Social Care issues. Leaflets on how to get involved had been placed on display in Libraries, and events in Libraries and Mobile Libraries were being organised. Leaflets were circulated at the meeting and were available from the Committee Officer.

7. AREA MANAGER UPDATE

Alison Wilkins, the Area Manager for Rawtenstall (covering Cribden, Goodshaw, Hareholme, Longholme and Whitewell) introduced herself to the meeting and gave the Communities Update. It was noted that Aled Thomas and Lucy Nearney were the Area Officers for the area and would deal with neighbourhood issues.

The Pride in Rossendale funding had resulted in 90 litter bins in the Borough and the team were now looking at reviewing park bins and lamp post bins, and replacing and installing new benches. Educational visits and litter picks were taking place in schools.

It was noted that a 'Love Parks' event was taking place at Whitaker Park on 2nd August 2009. The Area Manager agreed to circulate details of this event to all Elected Members and the Press.

The Area Manager notified the Forum that funding was available for community initiatives. A form was available to complete which was also on the website, and Area Officers would be available to give advice and support.

An update on the nature of future Neighbourhood Forums was also given. The Communities Team were seeking nominations from community representatives wanting to be involved in the meetings and a form was distributed at the meeting and details would be posted on the notice boards.

In response to questions from members of the public and Elected Members it was agreed that:

- Information on 'Love Parks' events and funding issues would be circulated to all Elected Members and the Press.
- The issue of grass cutting on Burnley Road, Crawshawbooth would be investigated.
- The issue of planting and health and safety issues at Bury Road opposite the Railway Tavern would be investigated.
- Weeds on pavements in the town centre and surrounding areas would be removed.

8. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The Chair reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. The Working Group recommended the following:

Organisation Name	Funding Granted
Rossendale RUFC – Junior/Mini Section	£400
St Anne’s Church, Edgeside	£250
Newchurch Methodist Church	Deferred pending further information
Harvey Longworth Social Club	Deferred pending further information
Whitewell Bottom Pre-School	£700
The Boo	£200
Longholme Methodist Church	£500
Cotton Shed Theatre Company	£375
Total funds granted	£2,425
Total funds remaining	£5,545

The Working Group had also considered ‘Events Grants’ Applications and the following was recommended:

Organisation Name	Funding Granted
Valley Artists	£500
Waterfoot Forward	£500
Friends of Rossendale Mela Association	£500
Total funds granted	£1,500
Total funds remaining	£5,760

Councillor Nuttall confirmed that the Mela would take place on 9th August 2009 at New Hall Hey Cricket Ground.

Councillor Robertson stated that high visibility vests, which had been left over from the Bike Show, were available for use for events.

Feedback from Previous Recipients

Councillor Nuttall reported that the money awarded to the Women's Institute had almost been spent and receipts would be available by October.

A representative from Edgeside Residents Association thanked the Forum for the award and provided feedback on what had been achieved with the funding.

Grant Forms were available at the meeting and were also available from the Communities Team on 01706 252551 or by emailing lesleycropper@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

9. OPEN FORUM

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the new format of future Neighbourhood Forums. It was noted that there would still be public meetings.

Concern was expressed over the consultation methods used by the Council and it was agreed that these concerns would be taken on board.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and closed at 9pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: