

Minutes of: Rawtenstall Neighbourhood Forum
Date of meeting: Tuesday 2nd July 2013
Location: Whitewell Bottom Community Centre

1. Present:

Cllr Colin Crawforth (Chair) Cllr Dorothy Farrington
Cllr Alyson Barnes Cllr Amanda Robertson
Cllr Karen Creaser Cllr Jackie Oakes
Cllr Andrea Fletcher
Claire Downs – Lancashire Police
Wendy Ruggieri – REAL
Vikki Livsey – Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
Shaju Ahmed – Positive Start
Chris Blomerley – Civic Pride
Jill Bevan – Edgeside and District Community Partnership
Rachael Gildert – Newchurch Residents Association
Brian Pickup – Rossendale Community First Responders
Dawn Taylor – Rossendale Community First Responders
Anne Johnstone – Green Vale Homes
Hameeda Mahmood – Haslingden Community Link
Ellie Williams - Haslingden Community Link
Liz Mutch – Horse and Bamboo Theatre and Rossendale Revival
Kathy Fishwick – Civic Trust
Leonard Entwistle – Civic Trust
Tamzin Percival – Rossendale Borough Council

No members of the public attended.

Cllr Colin Crawforth introduced Cllr Jackie Oakes to the forum as a new County Councillor now attending.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ronnie Barker, Cllr Liz McInnes, Cllr Peter Roberts, Cllr Christine Gill, Cllr Caroline Bleakley and Cllr Patrick Marriott.

3. Notes and action of the last meeting

Chris Blomerley raised the issue of illegal parking on Bank Street, Rawtenstall. The response is within section e) police update.

4. Update on local activities and services.

a) Credit unions – presented by Cllr Amanda Robertson
Cllr Amanda Robertson first welcomed everyone to Whitewell Bottom Community Centre and then explained the functions and benefits of credit unions.
The Mid Rossendale Credit Union is one of three credit unions within the area and covers all of Rossendale and bury north (Ramsbottom).
It is run by volunteers and acts like a “savings and loans” type club.
Loans have low interest rates and are only given if repayments can be afforded. Checks are carried out to ascertain this and each person is treated as an individual with an arrangement to suit them.

Savings can be made and the credit union gives interest upon these, as well as dividends to shareholders.

There is also the ability to purchase electrical goods via co-op electricals and this is available to anyone regardless of circumstance.

The credit union can help with hose deposits and loans which can help people get out of domestic violence situations.

Individuals or small businesses can use the credit union.

Cllr Robertson distributed leaflets to all attendees.

Further information can be obtained from:

Mid Rossendale credit Union

Office 5, Bacup Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 7NG

01706 212759

Email: mrcu06@aol.com

Website: www.midrossendalecu.co.uk

b) Heritage Buildings – presented by Kathy Fishwick.

Kathy explained that a new layer or introduction to the past heritage building scheme has been introduced. That new layer consists of developing a new list or register of buildings which are locally significant / important to people in that locality. These do not have to be buildings of any great heritage significance, but are those which local people feel are important for reasons such as their appearance, use or even sentiment.

There is also a listed landscapes layer too. This can include areas such as cemeteries or parks which may be designated as special places.

Kathy invited forum attendees to an event being held at the AB&D centre in Bacup on 1st August.

This is a free, all day, session (bring your own butties!) whereby people can attend to simply find out more about the scheme or identify those places that are special to them. English heritage have joined the Civic Trust and other similar organisations to host this important and interesting event.

c) Health Improvement Service – presented by Vikki Livesey.

Vikki explained about the chemical soup project whereby members of Rossendale Youth Council have been trained to deliver important messages around smoking and alcohol (amongst others) to their peers.

Further information:

vikki.livsey@lancashirecare.nhs.uk

Tel. 01254 358027

Health Improvement Service – East Lancashire

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

Forum members were highlighted to the fact that men's health week is happening with a focus on mental health issues. More details can be found from: www.menshealthforum.org.uk/

Vikki explained that the NHS has a lot of volunteers across the UK all carrying out excellent and valuable work. As a thank you, volunteers from east Lancashire were taken on a day out to Brockholes Nature Reserve.

Free training is offered to others who directly work with people in some capacity. Training is related to topics such as alcohol, baby safe, food skills and walk leader training (to mention a few). Please contact Vikki Livesey for a training prospectus.

vikki.livsey@lancashirecare.nhs.uk

Tel. 01254 358027

Health Improvement Service – East Lancashire

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

d) Forum member updates:

- Civic Pride - Chris Blomerley.

Chris distributed posters to advertise the forthcoming Britain In Bloom competition and asked forum members to display them.

Civic Pride has entered Rawtenstall in to its first ever Britain In Bloom competition, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society and being judged at 8.30am on 8th August.

Chris asked for help from attendees to get gardens, hanging baskets and planters all looking great.

Chris thanked the forum for the funding Civic Pride has received and explained how the business case is being met and plans being exceeded.

He explained that Civic Pride volunteers are out twice per week working hard to keep Rawtenstall looking great.

Civic Pride are now getting cooperation from Tesco to help improve the area and Chris urged other local businesses to get on Civic Prides side to help get Rawtenstall looking great.

More volunteers were asked for!

Kathy Fishwick mentioned that Goodshawfold Village entered Britain in Bloom in the 1980's and it was noted during judging that one property let them down and therefore attention to every detail is very important. Chris acknowledged that some places and property in Rawtenstall still need improvement.

- Recognition

Cllr Colin Crawforth congratulated Cllr Dorothy Farrington who has been awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2013.

- Horse and Bamboo Theatre – Liz Mutch.

Horse + Bamboo theatre holds its annual Puppet Festival this weekend (6th & 7th July) from 11am – 5pm both days. It is a great weekend of shows, activities and loads of free stuff. There is a show for adults on Saturday night, the "Matthew Robbins experience", which should be amazing (he has had shows at Tate Modern & The Barbican) and there is a mini parade at 4pm on Sunday led by a brass band from Jaipur!

- Rawtenstall Annual Fair – Liz Mutch

The Rawtenstall Annual Fair will be held on the Town Square on 27th July, 10am – 4pm. Another great day out with activities for all the family plus live music and dance from talent across the valley and local food and craft stalls. The Dementia Choir will be opening the event with a special annual fair song.

- Goodshaw Chapel Sermons – Kathy Fishwick.

Only one service is held per year at Goodshaw Chapel and it happens on the first Sunday of July, this year being 7th July at 6pm. The Larks of Dean Choir sing old traditional songs of the 18th Century, many of which were written in Rossendale. This is a truly unique experience and forum members are urged to attend.

- RBC update – Cllr Alyson Barnes

Cllr Barnes explained that further cuts to council funding have been announced and the figure of £1.5million of savings to be made has now increased to £1.8million and it will be a struggle to find where and how to find this.

Working with groups, such as Civic pride, really helps and thanks was given to them.

Consultation on how to achieve the savings will be occurring with staff and the wider community. There has been a lot of focus nationally to offset savings through income generation, economic growth and development; however there is a concern if this is right for this borough and people need to talk so that what the borough needs or wants can be reflected.

- Rawtenstall and Town Square Development – Cllr Alyson Barnes.

The architectural competition for Rawtenstall Centre and to find the partner to take forwards the development of the town square and surrounds (One Stop Shop and Police Station) is progressing well.

The police station redevelopment is now at evaluation stage.

Plans to fill the New Hall hey Retail Park are progressing with expectations that units will be occupied by 2014.

More news and updates will be given via the press and forum.

- Supermarket opening - Cllr Alyson Barnes.

The new Morrison's supermarket in Bacup is due to open early August.

- Crawshawbooth Community Association (CCA) - Cllr Alyson Barnes.

A ladies pampering evening is being held at Crawshawbooth Community Centre on Friday 5th July, starting 6pm. There is a cost of £3 per treatment and treatments will be carried out mostly by volunteers.

A fun day is being held in Crawshawbooth on 21st July, organised by Riley's butchers and CCA to raise funds for a children's charity in Crawshawbooth as well as the CCA.

- Newchurch Village – Rachael Gildert

A fun day is being held in Newchurch Village in the garden next to the Boars head pub on Saturday 13th July, 2pm – 5pm.

e) Police update – PC Claire Downs

Crime remains relatively low with no major issues to discuss. The police are aware of anti-social behaviour issues around Tesco, Whitaker Park Bowling Green and Rawtenstall Market, and are dealing with it.

A discussion regarding the fact that drivers are ignoring the newly painted double yellow lines on Bank Street was held. It was explained that a company called Parkwise, contracted through Lancashire County Council, are responsible for enforcement, however it is strongly felt that they are not fulfilling their duties. Cllr Alyson Barnes will take up this issue with LCC.

Claire explained that it is not easy for the police to enforce traffic violations of this matter as they cannot commit to doing it all the time, they will always try to help though by asking motorists to move on.

The issue of late night prayer meetings being held due to Ramadan and the fact that Mosques are often near pubs / clubs whereby upon leaving there may be social clashes, was raised. Claire explained that the Community Police Team now finish late night shifts at 2am and therefore may be better able to help than in previous years.

5. Expressions of Interest

- Holistic Health project – Ellie Williams and Hameeda Mahmood

Forum members agreed to support the project.

- Community First Responders – better pager system for quicker response times – Brian Pickup.

Forum members agreed to support the project.

6. Determining of grant submissions

The forum grants panel have approved the following grants this year:

Lumb Baptist Church	£325
Forces Children's Trust	£278
Rossendale Valley Sounds	£200
Rossendale district Schools Football Association	£181.50

The panel decided not to allocate funding to the friends of St Mary's , Rawtenstall as the amount requested was seen as a "drop in the ocean" compared to other funding being sought and the overall project costs. The level of funding which has also been applied for from elsewhere exceeded the level required for the project too.

7. Any other business

A discussion around the level of funding available via the forum was discussed and in light of the limited amounts it was suggested and has been agreed by forum members that the Holistic Health project should only be granted 50% of the requested amount thus leaving more monies available for forum grants where relatively small amounts of money can make a big difference.

Liz Mutch suggested that a celebration type event be considered to showcase all the good work of the forum and the successful projects that have been funded via the forum.

Leonard Entwistle asked about the format of the forum meetings. Tamzin Percival explained that a number of forum planning meetings are held throughout the year and these are for invited members only, however once each year one of the meetings is held as an open public meeting whereby anyone is welcome to attend.

It was also clarified that Leonard is welcome to attend representing the Civic Trust.

The future of the forums was enquired about and Tamzin Percival explained that in light of the current financial situation exactly what would be happening is one of the issues to be consulted upon. It was agreed by members that the forum does good work.

8. Date of next meeting

Scheduled for Tuesday 2nd October, however this is to be confirmed.

Addition:

Please see poster overleaf.



Local Organisations and Community Groups Promote Your Organisation on Community PowWow – It's Free

Community PowWow is a
new online community
resource for Lancashire

Anyone can go on and see,
find, attend, buy, sell, swap,
borrow or hire whatever
you are sharing.

Welcome



Go to www.communitypowwow.org.uk and join us
Community POWWOW is provided free of charge by ONE Lancashire

