

**Whitworth Neighbourhood Forum**  
**Notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting**  
**Shawforth Chapel, Whitworth**  
**13<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Present:** Cllr Sean Serridge (Chair), Cllr Alan Neal, Julie Johnson (Lancashire Care NHS Trust), PC Vinnie Hopkins and PCSO Heida Kirkbright (Lancashire Police), Mandy Whittaker (Greenvale Homes), Caroline Collins (RAFT), Wayne Gibson (LCC Public Health), Pat Myers (Community Member), Ken Makin (Community member), Marie Eccles (Community member), Brian Furness (Community Member), Colin Hubbard (Community Member), Pat Smith (REAL), Peter Mills, Jim Mellor, Lisa McDowell, Paul Marshall, Rick Cowley, Peter Schofield, Kathy Fishwick, Owen James, Steve Haigh, Malcolm Giles, Beth English, (Free Press), Alison Wilkins (RBC).

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Cllr Serridge welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies: Cllr Tom Aldred, Cllr David Barnes, Tony Phillips

3. **Notes and action from the last meeting**

Item 4 Police Update - Cllr Neal advised that in relation to nuisance caused by off road bikes in Healey Dell, he and Colin Hubbard had offered to help identify the bikes by making a note of registration numbers. PC Hopkins explained that the Police can't take enforcement action on the basis of third party information, but if Colin and Alan can provide names and addresses the Police can take action. PC Hopkins also advised that neither Lancashire Police or Greater Manchester Police have bikes with which to chase off road bikes.

Item 7 Cycleway – Colin Hubbard reported that the parking restrictions to be introduced on Cowm Park Way would exacerbate problems for cyclists and he had asked LCC to change the plans for the no waiting order, which they haven't done.

Cllr Serridge said he would raise issue with LCC the following day. **Action: Cllr Serridge**

4. **Slideshow of photographs from Whitworth Photographic Society**

Jim Mellor and Lisa McDowell from Whitworth Photographic Society presented a slideshow of photographs taken by Society members. Jim Mellor explained that the Society was set up in 2010 and currently has about 20 members. He circulated copies of the syllabus for the current year which details forthcoming events and meetings. The Society had received a £500 grant from the Neighbourhood Forum in 2013 which they had put towards the projector used for the slideshow.

## 5. Update on Local activities and services

### a) Police Update

PC Vinnie Hopkins read out the latest crime figures for Whitworth, which showed that generally crime, including anti-social behaviour, was lower than the same time last year. Two warrants had been issued for cannabis farms and community volunteers had been out with a speed camera. Although crime is low in Whitworth, people were reminded to be vigilant in ensuring their properties are secure at all times.

The problem of young people congregating around the Civic Hall was raised. PC Hopkins confirmed that there can be problems when there is an event on at The Riverside, and he was trying to get the young people to recognise that they need to be quieter when events are on. He advised that the Police don't get many reports of problems at The Riverside and advised people to report issues, otherwise the Police can't take action. It was also noted that there is a play area at The Riverside and as it is lit, young people will congregate there for their own safety. It was suggested that an extra CCTV camera be installed to cover the bowling green. Lisa McDowell agreed to find out the cost, as the CCTV cameras are part of The Riverside, and let Ken Makin know. **Action: Lisa McDowell**

### b) RAFT Foundation

Caroline Collins from the RAF Foundation gave a presentation on the work of the organisation, which had received a grant from the Neighbourhood Forums in 2012. She explained that RAFT had been set up as a food bank starting small and developing from there. In the last year RAFT have delivered 450 food parcels to households across Rossendale. People are referred to RAFT if they have an immediate food crisis and the food, which covers 7 days, is tailored to the specific needs of the household. Meeting the immediate food needs enables the household to focus on solving their other issues.

Caroline explained that RAFT only works through referring agencies, people cannot request food direct. RAFT aims to deliver within 48 hours, although it can be quicker if needed. Deliveries are made by volunteers and the organisation is based at Hardman's Mill in Rawtenstall although they cover the whole Borough including Whitworth. RAFT works closely with the Children's Centre in Whitworth.

RAFT has just over 100 volunteers and it redistributed £100,000 of donated food last year. They have received an Awards For All grant of £10,000 which has funded their website and Caroline's post. RAFT are working with many local businesses and supermarkets and are trying to get more involved. E.g. Warburtons supply all the bread for RAFT.

There are collection points for food in Tesco Haslingden and soon in Morrison's Bacup, plus children's centres and various churches.

Caroline can be contacted at [info@raftfoundation.org](mailto:info@raftfoundation.org)

### c) Valley of Stone Cycleway Project

Colin Hubbard gave an update on the cycleway. All the drawing and plans have been completed for a continuous cycle route from Rochdale to Rawtenstall. In Whitworth, Slingco have agreed to a land swap and a meeting is taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> January to finalise the details. LCC have funding to complete the Whitworth section which should be ready for the Summer.

## 6. Future of Neighbourhood Forums

Alison Wilkins outlined proposals for future arrangements for the Neighbourhood Forums after the end of March 2014. She explained that the Neighbourhood Forums were reviewed and refreshed 3 years ago, when 3 year action plans were developed and a 3 year funding agreement was put in place to support the delivery of the plans. Both the plans and funding are to come to an end in March 2014, and so the future of the Forums is under review.

Both Rossendale Council and Lancashire County Council are having to make significant financial savings, and the resultant reduction in staffing and other resources means that both Councils need to ensure that they are working efficiently and effectively with what resources they have.

It is proposed that the Neighbourhood Forums continue as informal networking and information sharing meetings, meeting 3 times a year to feed into the borough wide 3 Tier Forum, which will be the formal element. Meetings of the 3 Tier Forum will be public meetings and Neighbourhood Forum members will be encourage be to attend and contribute agenda items. The new arrangements would be for a trial period of 12 months and reviewed thereafter. The 3 Tier Forum would provide an opportunity for local people to raise issues with LCC and to hold them to account, which it was agreed would be a positive step.

## 7. Progress on implementing the Whitworth Neighbourhood Plan

An update newsletter on the Neighbourhood Plan was circulated, detailing progress in implementing the Plan and other local initiatives.

**Funding** - there are grants available through the Police and Crime Commissioners Community Action Fund. More details are available from [www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/caf](http://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/caf) There is also grant funding available through the Neighbourhood Forum for the current financial year.

Contact Alison Wilkins on 01706 252593 / [alisonwilkins@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:alisonwilkins@rossendalebc.gov.uk) for a form.

Julie Johnson gave an update on the work of the Health Improvement Service. Various National Library events are planned for 8 February. 8<sup>th</sup> March is National No Smoking Day, which the team will be supporting.

Alan Neal provided an update from United Utilities on activities at Cowm Reservoir. UU have been carrying out maintenance work at the Reservoir as a result of which people noticed a strong burning smell. UU have confirmed that oil appeared on the surface of the lodge, which is being dealt with and local residents have been informed. Alan advised that UU will keep him informed of any works to be done so that local residents know in advance.

It was noted that the access route from Tonacliffe to Market Street is due to become a properly designated footpath.

#### **8. Determining of grant and project funding applications**

The following grant applications were approved by the grants panel:

Rossendale Disability Forum - £55 towards a Borough wide application for funding for printing of folders.

In addition the Forum considered the following project funding applications:

Borough wide Expression of Interest from Rossendale Children and Young People's Trust for £600 funding for a Dragons Den project around alcohol and young people. Whitworth's pro rata contribution is £66.00. This was approved to go to submission of a full business case.

#### **9. Any other business**

Pat Myers reported that the TV programme Countryfile are asking for ideas and she suggested that local residents put forward wind farms as an item as there is concern about clustering of wind farms around Whitworth.

Colin Hubbard suggested that Section 106 funding from the wind farm go towards the cycle way in Rochdale as it would benefit Whitworth residents.

The problem of flooding by the pedestrian crossing at the Co-op was raised, as people are avoiding the crossing as a result. Cllr Serridge said he would raise the issue with LCC Highways. **Action: Cllr Serridge**

It was noted that Whitworth Day Care Centre has now been taken over by Calico Housing.

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm at Whitworth Civic Hall. This will be a Business Plan meeting.