

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

**Present:** Cllr Lythgoe (in the Chair)  
Cllrs L. Barnes, Bromley, Janet Eaton, Johnson, Kempson,  
Kenyon, Robertson, M. Smith, Zieda Ali (Co-opted member)

**In Attendance:** Jenni Cook, Committee & Member Services Officer  
Inspector Clarke, Lancashire Constabulary  
Ken Masser, Rossendale Leisure Trust  
Mark Kay, Rossendale Leisure Trust  
Christine Ashcroft, CLAW

**Also Present:** Cllr Haworth  
2 public  
0 press



### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies were given by Councillor McMahon who was substituted by Councillor Smith, Councillor Morris who was substituted by Councillor L. Barnes and Councillor Stansfield. Apologies were also given for Sam Plum, Director of Communities and Lisa McDowell (CLAW).

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 Councillor Lythgoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was on the Board of the Rossendale Leisure Trust.
- 3.2 Councillor L. Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest during item 9 in that her granddaughter was employed by CLAW.

### **4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- 4.1 There were no urgent items of business.

### **5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 5.1 The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

## 6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair confirmed there was nothing to update on this occasion.

## 7. LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY ANNUAL UPDATE

7.1 Inspector Clarke presented the annual update which comprised of the Rossendale Community Safety Partnership Quarter 3 figures and asked members to consider what data they would like to see in future reports. Inspector Clarke noted that there had been a change in recording crime figures which meant that every call generated a crime report prior to investigation. The following items were noted and discussed:-

- The reporting and recording process was outlined in more detail and there could be over 20 difference outcomes for a recorded crime.
- Information disclosed on DBS checks was decided by Police Headquarters and Inspector Clarke would follow up the matter raised with the Councillor directly.
- The change in recording had resulted in crime figures increasing. Examples of what could be initially recorded as a crime were given by Inspector Clarke, such as name-calling on Facebook.
- Hate crimes and crimes with a racial element were discussed and it was noted that a hate crime tag could be applied to any crime.
- There had been no incidents of crime/anti-social behaviour against asylum seekers reported and discussion took place on the issues of under-reporting and confidence in the police. Work was being undertaken to review crimes to see if they should have been given a hate crime tag and initiatives were being undertaken to tackle under-reporting.
- The 101 service was discussed and it was noted that a new intake of staff was being recruited. Whitworth residents often had issues when trying to access Lancashire when ringing 101 and it was important that callers said 'no' when asked if GMP was the correct area.
- The loss of the STAR Centre was discussed and Inspector Clarke noted that the WISH Centre provided resources.
- Shoplifting figures had increased and this was partly attributed to an increase in the number of shops in Rawtenstall. An offender who had been targeting the new M&S had recently been jailed for 3 months.
- The impact of police cuts on Rossendale was discussed and Inspector Clarke outlined the police numbers and staffing rotas. The impact of fracking operations and other major incidents was discussed and it was noted that these incidents were mostly covered by off-duty officers on overtime so the impact on Rossendale cover was minimal.
- The powers given to PCSOs was queried and this fell under the remit of the Chief Constable. A parking issue at Tonacliffe School was discussed and Inspector Clarke agreed to follow this up with the PCSO.
- Public perception of the police in the light of financial cuts was discussed and Inspector Clarke stated that it was important that the police were clear on the level of response that someone would get if a crime was reported.

- Discussion took place on drugs and their correlation to crime and it was noted that the alcohol also played a part in crimes such as shoplifting. Inspector Clarke noted the importance of any issues such as suspected dealing being reported to the police in order to build up intelligence.

7.2 Inspector Clarke agreed to follow up specific matters raised with him and clarify the role of the WISH Centre. Information to be included on future reports would include information on minority groups, drugs, hate crimes and radicalisation.

**Resolved:**

1. The report was noted and Inspector Clarke was thanked for his time.
2. Members should let the Committee and Member Services Officer know of any other items they wished to be included in the minutes.

Note: Inspector Clarke left the meeting after his item.

**8. LEISURE REVIEW – ROSSENDALE LEISURE TRUST**

8.1 Rossendale Leisure Trust had submitted a brief report and a YouTube film. Members watched the film which can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7yrlhB-OHE&t=277s>

8.2 The Leisure Trust's update was summarised as follows:-

- For the third consecutive year the Trust were operating at a surplus of £30k with no council subsidy.
- The success of the Grip and Go facility and Laser Tag was highlighted.
- The Trust's facilities had received over 700K visitors during 2017.
- Events had increased such as the Colour Dash, Celebration Event and the Halloween Scare Walk.
- Child engagement was increasing with over 700 children learning to swim at Marl Pits.
- The offer in the east of Rossendale, in particular Bacup, was discussed and talks were ongoing with Pioneer Gym.
- Key challenges going forward were outlined, in particular the increase in minimum wage, investment in pool plant equipment at Marl Pits and gym equipment at Haslingden.
- Opportunities in the future were outlined, such as a Sport England bid to work with mental health services, work with Ski Rossendale and the opportunities arising from the Spinning Point development.

8.3 The Leisure Trust was thanked for the impressive report. Members and members of the public discussed the report as follows:-

- Prices and charges were reviewed every year and there were no immediate plans to raise charges. It was important to remain competitive.
- Discussion took place regarding competition in the area and it was noted that the free parking at Haslingden Sports Centre was an asset to be promoted.
- Thanks were given to the Leisure Trust from a member for the soft play sessions for special needs children.

**Resolved:**

1. That the report is noted and the Leisure Trust was thanked for their time.

**9. LEISURE UPDATE – CLAW**

9.1 Christine Ashcroft presented the annual report from CLAW and it was noted that the financial information would be circulated to members. The following was highlighted:-

- The impact of minimum wages and pension contributions.
- Membership charges increased year on year, however these increases were as low as possible.
- Another gym had opened in the Whitworth area.
- Slimming World sessions in the Riverside had been a success with 3 sessions a week accommodating 60-70 members. Work was being undertaken to provide a 'Gym and Swim' offer for Slimming World members.
- School swimming lessons were increasing with schools from the Rochdale area coming to Whitworth pool.
- Lockers had been upgraded to accept the new £1 coins and this had been done at minimal cost.
- New pipework and valves had been installed to the learner pool, which meant this could now be independently heated, separate to the main pool.
- Aqua Tai Chi lessons had been introduced and were successful.
- A new coffee machine had been installed which was bringing in more income.
- A new air handling unit was required and quotes ranging from £40k-£60K were being received.
- Income had improved at the Riverside with more events being arranged:-
  - Mini-me sessions
  - Coffee mornings
  - Afternoon Tea Dances
  - Family events – Halloween, Theatre
  - Gin Festivals
  - Ladies Day
  - Burns Night booking
  - More Weddings
  - GEM Appeal Ball
  - Soul Night instead of a Valentine's Day event
- The terms of the lease stated that the Riverside be decorated every two years, however in order to maintain the quality of the venue, this was done twice a year. A new carpet had been installed at a cost of £15k and re-branding/new signage at a cost of £5k.
- Lighting was being replaced with LED lights as required which would provide better lighting quality and an eventual cost saving.
- New computer equipment and software had also been purchased.

9.2 Members noted the following:-

- Gym equipment may need upgrading to retain new members and the Leisure Trust offered to discuss this matter with CLAW.
- The membership of the sports facilities and use of the Riverside was excellent for a town with a population of less than 8,000.

**Resolved:**

1. CLAW was thanked for the report and the financial information would be circulated to members.

**10. THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee and Member Services Officer noted that the Forward Plan had not been re-published since publication of the January O&S agenda.

**Resolved:**

The information was noted.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and finished at 8.10pm**