

Notes of: BACUP AREA FORUM

Venue: Fearn's High School, Stacksteads

Date of Meeting 8th June 2006

Present: Councillor W Challinor (in the Chair)
Councillor C Lamb
Councillor G Haworth
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer (Rossendale)
Lancashire County Council
Helen Rothwell, Lancashire County Council, Social Services
Inspector Dave Shepherd, Lancashire Constabulary
David Whiteman NEAT Manager, RBC
David McChesney, NEAT Officer
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer, RBC
Dorothy Mitchell, Rossendale Community Network

Also Present: 18 members of the public

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and the Council Officers and other representatives present introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors P Steen and J Driver.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2006

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Shepherd provided an update on crime statistics and noted that crime as a whole over the year had reduced for all offenders and so far this year this was being maintained, with some areas having slightly reduced. Other areas include

- Increase in dwelling house burglary of 4, bringing the total number to 6
- Criminal damage had reduced

- The Police are targeting areas where anti social behaviour is a problem
- Slight increase in violent crime, which includes minor-serious assaults
- Vehicle crime is down
- There is a drug issue in the Borough and drug offences have risen from 7 last year to 10 this year – ideally the Police want to work with other organisation on this issue
- 16 target offenders have been identified and those individuals were reviewed fortnightly. Of the 16 only 2 were at liberty, which demonstrated that the selection process worked well.

Inspector Shepherd indicated that the Police were working with other agencies, including the NEAT officers, probation service and housing officers.

The Stacksteads area had been having problems with young people causing nuisance in the streets. To alleviate this problem the Police had supported a local business man who had a Kick Boxing class which enabled these young people to enrol in classes to keep them off the street.

5. NEAT TEAM UPDATE

The Forum was updated on current work being carried out by the NEAT Team including the “Grot Spots” initiative. The public were asked to suggest more sites for the “Hit Teams” to target. The areas which had already been identified and cleaned-up were

- Hawthorne Road Play area
- Behind Rockcliffe Road – this was brought to the NEAT team’s attention by a local resident.
- Land to the rear of Pennine Road had been identified for clean-up within the next few weeks.

Members of the public indicated to the NEAT team other areas which were in need of clean-up and these include; Park Road and Goodshaw Lane in Crawshawbooth.

David McChesney informed the public that cleaning would be rotated throughout the Borough.

Dave Whiteman went on to explain the penalty notices which has been introduced including;

- Fly posting - £75 fixed penalty – the NEAT team cleaned off all the posters a few weeks earlier but some re-appeared. These had now been removed by the benefactors after the service of notices.
- Dog fouling penalty had been increased from £50-£75
- Fixed penalty notice for litter to be introduced in September
- Fast track system for removing abandoned vehicles which had resulted in quite a few vehicles being removed

A member of the public asked whether it might be appropriate for the NEAT team to go into local schools to educate children and Dave Whiteman indicated that one member of the team was a qualified teacher who was in the process of putting together a pack to take into schools and give a comprehensive talk to the children. This will begin in September 2006

Councillor Lamb thanked the NEAT team for their excellent work.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A member of the public expressed concern about car parking around the Grammar School, especially during term time and the fact that local residents feel like 'prisoners' in their homes. Areas were being gridlocked which could become a danger

7. EAST LANCASHIRE HOSPITALS PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Val Bertenshaw, Project Director of the Clinical Services Review presented the proposals within the consultation document which were provided to members of the public at the meeting. The main reasoning behind these proposals were influenced by the developing clinical expertise.

A number of questions and concerns were raised by those present and Val Bertenshaw responded to those questions she was able to answer and also offered to clarify information on those issues she was not able to answer. Some of the questions raised were as follows:-

- **Is the A & E at Burnley closing?** – this would become an urgent care centre to cater for minor injuries and illness. At present of the 65,000 who attend they would still expect 52,000 to attend the urgent care centre and the other 15% would with the proposals, go to Queens Park Hospital
- **Are there enough Paramedics to cover when the proposed changes occur?** – 2 additional ambulances have been identified

- **Travel from Bacup to Rochdale is the same as to Burnley** – with an urgent care centre at Rossendale some will not need to travel to either Rochdale or Burnley
- **Will this be a walk-in centre?** – No, an urgent care centre is a higher level of care than that provided at a walk-in
- **Are Birthing Centres safe?** – Expert advice says that they are, as midwives now have more knowledge.
- **Will it be PFI?** – No, any money for a new build will come from selling off some of the site of the existing hospital.
- **Why run down services at Rossendale before a new build is identified?** – reasons for this are either financial or clinical

Other questions were raised and the public were able to let their views known to the Trust. At this point Val asked the public to complete the number of questionnaires available at the meeting to help both the Trust and Rossendale Council receives their views.

8. PUBLIC EXERCISE “HEALTH AMBITION FOR ROSSENDALE”

Dorothy Mitchell of Rossendale Community Network facilitated an interactive session.

Dorothy explained the ideas put forward by the Rossendale Development Group which was set up to take account of the whole health provision for Rossendale for the future and explained that this group was not just made up of people from the Trust and PCT, but other people who could help influence decisions for the people of Rossendale.

All members of the public present were urged to return the questionnaire that had been distributed at the meeting. The questionnaire would be put on the Council’s website and some members of the public offered to circulate the questionnaire to friends in their area.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and closed at 8.50pm