

Notes of: HASLINGDEN, EDENFIELD AND HELMSHORE AREA FORUM

Venue: Mary Hindle Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden

Date of Meeting: 20th September 2006

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Cheetham, Dickinson, Essex, Morris,
Sandiford, Starkey and Thorne,
County Councillor Wilkinson
Heather Moore, Committee Services Manager
Claire Angus, NEAT Officer
PC Chris Kett, Lancashire Police
Jerry Smith, Lancashire County Council's District
Partnership Officer**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Approximately 15 members of the public
1 press representative**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J and S Pawson and Smith.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and apologised for the change of venue.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 14th June 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING

Councillor Ruddick reported on the actions which had been taken following the last meeting as detailed below:

- **Waiting restrictions on Lower Deardengate/Helmshore Road.** Jerry Smith reported that the Traffic Regulation Order had been found today and Lancashire County Council had been asked to look at the signs. An update would be given at the next meeting.
- **New Street Car Park.** Councillor Sandiford reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Car Park Review Team had discussed this and action was being taken.
- **Grane Road.** Jerry Smith confirmed that the temporary weight restriction would be in force from 18 months from February 2006.

He informed the meeting that Lancashire Local would consider making the Order permanent from August 2006. The meeting discussed the displacement of HGV's on Hud Hey Road and it was reported at the last Lancashire Local that a weight restriction would be looked into.

- **Grass Cutting at Lane Ends, Woolpack and Rising Bridge.** It was reported that this work was complete. County Councillor Wilkinson confirmed that Rising Bridge was completed last night.
- **Tesco Roundabout Works.** Jerry Smith reported that action had been taken and Daniel Herbert, the County Council's Engineer was making this a top priority.
- **Bay Horse Pub.** It was reported that evening enforcement was being undertaken.
- **£21.99 for new green bins.** It was reported that this was policy since 2003. Concerns were raised about Grane Mill in that they were new houses and the Council was still collecting bin bags. Claire Angus agreed to look into the matter. Councillor Morris enquired about why grass cuttings were not collected and Councillor Sandiford reported that it could not be collected as it was not domestic waste and there would be costs in collecting. A member of the public commented that if the grass was mown regularly you would not notice the grass cuttings.
- **Pitch 1a Haslingden Sports Centre.** It was reported that the pitch had been re-seeded. Concerns were raised that money had been spent on the pitch all summer.
- **Cemetery.** It was reported that the signs had been replaced.

5. POLICE ISSUES

Chris Kett provided an update of the latest crime figures up to 18th September 2006. In comparison with last year all crime was down by 333 (reports of crime) in the Haslingden, Edenfield and Helmshore areas.

Operation 'Summer Nights' had concluded and visits to licensed premises across Rossendale was 676. Test Purchases of 40 off licences and 10 on licences had been undertaken. PC Kett reported on the success of the operation and that a significant amount of alcohol had been seized during that period.

He outlined proposals for Bonfire Night project which would target known hot spots and the Police were working in partnership with the Fire Brigade to deal with offenders from the previous year. It was proposed that premises that held licences to sell fireworks would be visited and there would be a link with the NEAT team of the Council. Schools would be visited to raise awareness and provide education.

The 'Ring of Steel' initiative was increased in focus to target individuals via intelligence received. Lancashire Police were working with Greater Manchester Police.

PC Kett reported that the push bikes had been obtained and the officers had undertaken the cycling proficiency examination.

Members of the public and Elected Members raised a number of issues as follows:-

- An update was requested by Councillor Starkey on speed enforcement on Helmshore Road. PC Chris Kett reported that static enforcement could not take place on the site. Comments were made that speed enforcement should take place in the evening. County Councillor Wilkinson reported that engineering works were discussed at the last Lancashire Local Meeting and he would request an update at the next meeting.
- Councillor Sandiford asked whether targets were being met. In response Councillor Ruddick who Chaired the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership meeting and reported that the 3 year target had been achieved in 1 year.
- Councillor Morris enquired about how the public could interpret emergency response. PC Kett informed the meeting that should they have any concerns they should dial 999 and advice would be given accordingly.

5. NEAT TEAM UPDATE

Claire Angus updated the meeting on the following issues:

- **Fly Tipping.** Claire Angus provided some general advice on fly tipping. She reported that problems were being experienced in respect of fly tipping and illegal collection of waste. All residents were urged to check the credentials of anyone offering to collect waste from them and the NEAT Officer reminded the Forum that people could be prosecuted if waste was found disposed of illegally. She asked that vehicle registrations be obtained which could help should an investigation be required. A concern was raised about the Baptist Church and 3 bikes which had been left in the grounds. Claire Angus reported that she worked with Simon Whiteside and both could be contacted on Telephone 01706 252540.
- **Recycling.** Claire Angus reported that there were a number of blue bins which had been contaminated with household waste. Contaminated blue bins were unable to be emptied with either the blue or green bins and a special collection would have to be made. The Forum was reminded of what items could be put into the blue bins. In blue bins glass, cans, foil and certain plastics including Type 1 and 2. The Area Forum suggested that posters be designed to educate and raise awareness of what could be recycled in which bin. It was also suggested that the Rossendale Alive newsletter have a feature on recycling. It was suggested

that the signs to the civic amenity at Duckworth Clough be made more prominent in order to assist members of the public in locating the facility.

6. GROUNDWORK ROSSENDALE OPEN SPACES STRATEGY AND PLAY STRATEGY

Amelia Dew of Groundwork Rossendale gave a short presentation in respect of the Open Spaces Strategy and Play Strategy that Groundwork Rossendale were working in partnership with the Council to develop. She outlined the definition of play and reported that the delivery of the strategy would be through community involvement and engagement and contact through voluntary and public organisations.

She informed the meeting that an action plan and timetable would be developed. She circulated a questionnaire to those present.

7. OPEN FORUM

A number of issues were raised:

- Interfloor. It was reported that a meeting had been arranged between Interfloor, the Council's Environmental Health Department and those members of the public that had raised concerns about the emissions. Concerns were raised that the meeting was to be held during the day. A member of the public enquired about how the meeting had been instigated and it was agreed that information would be obtained and fed back outside the meeting.
- Concerns were raised about 3 supermarkets in close proximity. In response Councillor Ruddick reported that it was a judgement for each supermarket.
- Concerns were raised about the number of takeaways in Haslingden. In response Councillor Ruddick highlighted that the Development Control Committee would have to approve such applications and he recommended that people write in and object should a planning application be submitted.
- Concerns were raised about rubbish at Central Square Flats/Pleasant Street.
- Concerns were raised about anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Mendip House. It was commented that the Police were unable to attend immediately. County Councillor Wilkinson advised that incidents should be reported to the Police as they would analyse information and be able to target specific areas.

The above matters would be looked into and feedback would be given at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(The meeting opened at 7.25pm and closed at 8.40pm)