

Notes of: JOINT MEETING OF THE HASLINGDEN (INCLUDING EDENFIELD AND HELMSHORE) AND RAWTENSTALL AREA FORUM

Venue: Haslingden County Primary School, Ryefield Avenue, Haslingden

Date of Meeting: 29th January 2007

**PRESENT: Councillor D Ruddick (In the Chair)
Councillors A Barnes, Cheetham, Dickinson, Essex, C Gill, P Gill, Graham, Morris, Sandiford, Smith, Starkey, Swain and Thorne
County Councillor Hazel Harding
County Councillor R.A. Wilkinson**

**PC Gallagher, Lancashire Constabulary
PC Mulla, Lancashire Constabulary
Carole Todd, Head of Street Scene and Liveability
Phil Seddon, Head of Financial Services
Lorna Rouke, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Heidi Finlay, Neat Team Manager
Jerry Smith, Lancashire County Council's District Partnership Officer
Steve Downey, Operations Director, Interfloor
Bernard Mrozek, Technical Director, Interfloor
Joanne Miller, Miller Goodall Environmental Services Ltd
Alison Tradewell, Civic Services Officer
Heather Moore, Committee Services Manager**

Approximately 12 members of the public and 2 representatives from the press attended the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Alcroft, Crosta, Entwistle, Forshaw, Hancock, Ormerod, S Pawson and J Pawson

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meetings held on 18th September and 20th September were agreed as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING

- A member of the public asked what had been done to improve advertising for Area Forums as stated in the Action Sheet from the last meeting.
The Chair explained that the whole issue of Area Forums were being looked at and that currently posters were being put out at the Libraries, One Stop Shop, local shops.
- A comment was made that the details of the Forum meeting dates were difficult to find on the Council's web site and a suggestion was made that it could be placed on the front page to make it easier to find the details. The request was noted and the issue looked at.
- A question was asked as to when the Waiting Restrictions would be coming in to Lower Deardengate/Helmshore Road. The Action sheet from Lancashire County Council stated that the replacement and relocation of the signs would be done in January. The response given was that the matter was in hand and it would be done in the near future.

5. POLICE ISSUES

The Leader of the Council reported that Inspector Hodson was not present at the meeting as he was receiving a long service medal.

The meeting congratulated PC Mulla on being awarded the Queens Galantry Medal.

PC Martin Gallagher and PC Mulla provided an update on crime statistics, comparing 2005 to 2006.

	2005	2006	
• Crime overall	1436	1299	Reduction of 137
• Burglaries in dwellings	75	50	Reduction of 25
• Vehicle crime	195	167	Reduction of 28
• Reports of damage	433	338	Reduction of 95
• Violent Crime	283	275	Reduction of 8
• Hate Crime	19	14	Reduction of 5
• Stealing from shops and stalls	87	68	Reduction of 19
• Burglary from commercial dwellings	74	104	Increase of 30
• Anti Social Behaviour	1702	1660	Reduction of 42

PC Mulla provided an update on issues in the Haslingden area.

- Many warrants have been issued to dealers and associates in the Haslingden area and a known dealer was recently given a 12 month jail sentence. County Councillor Harding asked whether they were able to seize properties and assets once the dealers have been caught. PC Mulla confirmed that they are now starting to do this and are able to issue Closure Orders on properties for up to three months so that the property cannot continue to be used for dealers. This is also sending a signal to the Landlords and making them think more carefully about who they let these properties to as it is also hitting their pockets.
- Recently purchased two “mosquitoes” which can be used in hot spots where youths congregate and generally create a nuisance. They emit a high pitch sound which young people can pick up and will hopefully discourage them from congregating in one area for a long period of time. County Councillor Harding asked if there was criteria for use of Mosquito?
PC Mulla explained that there was and it could not be used near a children’s play area for instance.
- Two licensed premises who had not been abiding by the licensing laws were recently looked at and one of the licensed premises was taken to review in December. The consequence of this was that the licensing hours were reduced and conditions imposed.
- Operation Forecourt is an initiative dealing with the link between handling stolen goods and drugs and Operation Vault dealing with cash in transit, i.e. travelling criminals from Manchester. Ring of Steel is another one whereby the local area can be shut down very quickly in the event of any robberies in the area. This initiative is a joint one with Greater Manchester Police.
- Speed Enforcement operations are continuing.
- A member of the public voiced his concerns over the amount of litter in the valley and asked whether any of the Community Beat Managers were giving out instant fines as they were travelling around the valley. PC Mulla said that it was difficult actually catching someone dropping litter but confirmed that if this was the case then fines would be issued.
- Councillor Swain asked about numbers of Community Support Officers and if they work same shifts or different shift times.
Haslingden – 3 with one in training
Rawtenstall - 3 with one in training
They work different shifts and one may cross over slightly onto another but generally it is different shifts. He explained that the Community Beat Managers were not on the streets as often as the Community Support Officers as they deal with arrests and respond to radio calls etc. The Community Support Officers are the eyes and ears of the community he explained.
- Councillor Barnes asked if it was likely that more CCTV cameras would be bought for Bank Street. There were cameras in only one direction at the moment. Carole Todd, Head of Street Scene and Liveability responded and said she would get back to Cllr. Barnes Cllr. Barnes commented that traders would probably be prepared to contribute towards this. On the same issue, Councillor Sandiford asked about CCTV in Haslingden and whether there would be any CCTV for the shops in Deardengate. PC Mulla explained that

the CCTV cameras at the moment were concentrated on car parks in the area because that was the budget that the money came from.

- A member of the public asked if it was possible to have the figures for undetected crimes. PC Mulla said it was and that he would get them for the next meeting.
- County Councillor Wilkinson referred to cctv in the vicinity of the Commercial Public house. PC Mulla agreed to discuss this outside the meeting.

Members of the Council expressed their appreciation for the work being done and said they were impressed with the overall reduction in crime.

The Chair thanked PC Gallagher and PC Mulla for their attendance.

6. NEAT TEAM UPDATE

The NEAT Team Manager for Haslingden, Helmshore and Edenfield, Heidi Finlay, explained that there were now 3 Managers for each of the dedicated areas. She herself is new to the team and was hoping to form partnerships with the community and to try and resolve issues large and small. The NEAT Teams would develop a Neighbourhood Charter which is an agreement between the Council and the community to explain what the Council will do and what the community can do to help improve the Environment.

Various matters were then raised by Councillors and from the floor.

- Councillor Barnes said that the Environmental Group and local community in the Goodshaw area had been made an offer from the Probation Service to carry out larger practical issues in the area but to enable them to carry out these works they would need the facility of a toilet cubicle. She asked Head of Street Scene and Liveability if this would be possible. Carole Todd confirmed that she would make the necessary arrangements for this to be carried forward.
- A member of the public expressed concerns about illegal tipping and removal of trees which was being carried out at Ewood Bridge Mill. The NEAT Team Manager said she would take the details after the meeting and forward this information on to the relevant person.
- The introduction of a mobile street cleaner in Edenfield was welcomed.
- A concern was expressed about the lack of sweeping on Rochdale Road.
- A question was raised about the public convenience in Edenfield and what the current situation was. Issues re Haslingden public conveniences were also raised. The Chair explained that there was a report going to Cabinet re the future of all public conveniences in Rossendale.
- A question was raised about storing bins on the highway and in response the Head of Street Scene and Liveability informed the meeting that the Council were looking at options of communal bins for Blackburn Road, Haslingden. Issues regarding the cosmetic appearance of bins stored on certain highways around Rossendale were raised. A comment was made that refuse vehicles were much larger these days which made them unable to get down back

streets. County Councillor Harding commented that it was a cleaner safer system for refuse collectors and people needed to be encouraged to recycle.

- Councillor Barnes requested a meeting between Ward Members and Head of Street Scene and Liveability to look at the issues and problems regarding East Street in Rawtenstall. The Head of Street Scene said she would look into this and be in contact with Councillor Barnes.

7. BUDGET CONSULTATION

Councillor Essex presented a summary of the 2007/08 budget to the Forum.

He asked that members of the public send in their views on the budget by letter or email to the Head of Financial Services by 12th February.

Members of the public asked various questions on the budget proposals.

- What were the proposals for Leisure facilities in Rossendale, particularly Marl Pits Stadium. The Chair responded to say that a report had been commissioned on the different options available and they would be looking at those options once the report has been prepared.
- What would be the cost of the upkeep of the Panopticon once it was in place and was this coming out of the rate payers money. The Chair responded that it would cost approximately £12,000 per year for maintenance costs and funding for the installation and remediation of the land was funded by the lottery.
- Councillor Barnes asked about the saving of £5,000 for public transport. Did we know which services would be affected? The Head of Financial Services said this information would be sent to members shortly.

8. UPDATE ON INTERFLOOR, BROADWAY

Mr. Downey, Operations Director of Interfloor made a short presentation on the current position with regard to the Fume Abatement Project. He gave the background to the long standing problem and was hopeful that the machinery to solve the problem would be commissioned by the end of 2007. He explained that there was much engineering work to be done in the factory first and that the cost of this project would be in the region of £1.8M. The running costs thereafter would be approximately £250,000. He expected the odour to be significantly reduced and the overall reduction would be by up to 95%.

The Operations Director intimated that he would be happy to report back to future meetings of the Area Forum.

Members of the Council gave thanks to Mr. Downey and they all agreed that congratulations should be given to the Company for the way in which they are dealing with this long outstanding problem.

Members of the public raised some points on this project.

- What would be the noise levels of the machinery which was to be installed?
Below 45 decibels at the boundary which should not be heard by any houses in the vicinity. Silencers would be put onto all moving parts of the machinery.
- Would there be much steam from the chimney?
Hardly any at all. It should only be on very cold days when steam is visible and this will be only a mix of water and carbon dioxide.

It was agreed that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

9. OPEN FORUM

Public Question Time

Members of the public raised the following:

- Paper Mill, Stubbins – Similar problem to Interfloor spanning over many years, along with pollution into the river. A request was made for an inspection of this site and Lorna Rouke, Principal Environmental Health Officer promised to look into this and respond directly back to the originator of the question.
- Is the disc parking scheme going to be introduced in Haslingden?
The Chair said it was going to be introduced throughout the Borough in the near future.

THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7 P.M. AND CLOSED AT 9 P.M.