

**Notes of:**            **BACUP AREA FORUM**

**Venue:**             **Fearns Community Sports College**

**Date of Meeting**    **24<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Present:**            **Councillor W Challinor (in the Chair)**  
**Councillors Driver, Haworth and Steen**  
**County Councillor Serridge, Lancashire County Council**  
**Julie Jackson, NEAT Manager**  
**Jenni Cook, Committee Officer**  
**Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary**

**1 member of the public**  
**1 Representative from the Press**

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**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Lamb and Durkin.

**3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2007**

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

County Councillor Serridge asked for an update on the provision of CCTV and extension of the alcohol ban in Stubbylee Park as noted in the last minutes. Inspector Wilkinson confirmed that there was no budget for CCTV this year, however this was being considered for next year. There were also no plans to extend the alcohol ban.

**Action Sheet**

The Action Sheet was discussed and the following was noted:

- Corporation Street and Regent Street litterbins – it was confirmed that NEAT Officers would continue to monitor the situation.
- Bacup Culvert – it was noted that works were scheduled to begin this week. Discussion took place on the effect that the works would have on the Remembrance Sunday parade. Councillor Steen, in his capacity as British Legion Representative for Bacup, clarified that Remembrance was not and never had been a Council responsibility and that this was a countrywide stance.

Responsibility for Remembrance lay with the British Legion. Alternative routes for the parade were discussed and it was noted that there were safety concerns. Councillor Steen also highlighted that unless stewards could be found, the future of the parade was in doubt. Inspector Wilkinson confirmed that a van could be provided for the rear of the parade. In response to an enquiry from the press representative, it was confirmed that at least 10 stewards would be required.

- Pennine Road Quarry – County Councillor Serridge confirmed that this would be taken to the next Lancashire Local meeting, as works were scheduled to resurface the Hall Estate. Councillor Challinor also agreed to raise this at the Highways Committee.

#### 4. POLICE UPDATE

##### Summary of Update from Inspector Wilkinson for the Irwell and Greensclough Wards

1 <sup>st</sup> June 2006 – 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2007 – 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2007:
312 crimes reported 89 (28.5%) crimes detected	304 crimes reported 108 (35.5%) crimes detected

Inspector Wilkinson summarised Police activity taking place in the Bacup area, including Operation Summer Nights, CURE (Clean Up Rossendale East), Licensing visits, youth referrals, seizing of alcohol.

It was noted that implementation of the smoking ban had led to an increase in on-street drinking and Inspector Wilkinson confirmed that licensees visits were being carried out to tackle this problem.

Inspector Wilkinson agreed to bring alcohol related stop and search figures to the next Forum.

#### 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANT APPLICATIONS

It was confirmed that one grant application in the sum of £750 had been received from the Horse and Bamboo Theatre for the purpose of subsidising ticket sales for families with young children.

Councillor Driver and Julie Jackson confirmed that the grant had been discussed and the Horse and Bamboo would be awarded the full £750.

In response to a query from a member of the public, Julie Jackson responded that there was not currently a Community Policy and she clarified the grants application procedure and the manner in which the grant budget had been distributed throughout the Borough.

Starting budget = £4,320  
Amount Allocated this meeting = £750  
Remaining budget = £3,570

## **6. NEAT TEAM UPDATE**

The NEAT Manager, Julie Jackson updated the Forum as follows:

- 52 complaints had been received, all of which had been resolved.
- Diversionary activities for youths had been provided throughout the summer holidays, funded by Elevate.
- Works to Spring Terrace had been completed, bins were now in place and recycling had been introduced.
- There were currently 19 stalls on Bacup Market with only 1 stall vacant.
- Environmental schemes for this year included Mill Street, Holmes Street, Sheppard and Birch Street. Also rear of Hindle Street alleyway resurfacing and gating and renovation of railings at Kiln Terrace are being implemented.

Councillor Challinor stated that since the NEAT Teams had become involved in Elevate, there had been vast improvements in the local environment and better leadership.

County Councillor Serridge requested an update on Gladstone Street and Britannia. Councillor Steen outlined the process for submitting regeneration bids and the programme for the next 2 years. It was noted that although Elevate was a 15 year programme money was allocated in 2 year programmes.

## **10. OPEN FORUM**

A new resident of the Bacup area enquired about Section 106 agreement contributions in respect of developments around the area. Councillor Challinor replied that one of the developments referred to planning consent given 10 years previously, however new Section 106 Agreements were subject to rigorous criteria to include open spaces, transport, affordable housing and other services. The resident was advised to read the Council's Play Strategy as this contained useful information.

The same resident enquired about the poor attendance at the Forum. It was noted that this was a location and weather issue and that future meetings would be held closer to Bacup centre.

As there were no further questions Councillor Challinor closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**The meeting commenced at 7pm and closed at 7.45pm.**

