

**Notes of: HASLINGDEN, EDENFIELD AND HELMSHORE
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

Venue: Haslingden High School

Date of Meeting: 17th September 2007

**PRESENT: Councillor D Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Sandiford, Morris, Pilling and
Dickinson
Inspector Dave Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary
PC Mark Bewley, Lancashire Constabulary
Heidi Finlay, Neat Team Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager**

**Approximately 15 members of the public and 1
representative 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 S. Pawson, J. Pawson, Thorne and Smith.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 18th June 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that the actions raised were either complete or in the process of being actioned.

A member of the public thanked the Neighbourhood Forum for the quick response she received following an item that she raised at the last meeting.

In response to a question by Councillor Sandiford regarding Neighbourhood Notice Boards, Heidi Finlay reported that designs were currently being looked at and proposals for siting the Boards would come back to the Forum for agreement.

5. PRESENTATION ON SIDE WASTE / NEAT TEAM UPDATE

Councillor Ruddick gave a presentation on the subject of side waste in response to recent media coverage and to provide clarity on the Council's position. He provided information on the Council's current recycling rates and reported that 15 tonnes of side waste was equivalent to an increase of 5% in current recycling rates. It cost £40 for each tonne of side waste however recyclable waste could be disposed of free of charge and in some cases sold to market. He informed the Forum that side waste cost in excess of £31,000 to be sent to landfill, however if this was recycled the income to the Council would be over £20,000. In terms of returning to weekly general collections the estimated costs were between £1,110,200 to £1,129,700 per annum. The cost of not introducing the side waste policy was £620,000.

Councillor Ruddick reported that leaflets had been provided to all households explaining what could go in the bins and the website was updated with current information.

He informed the Forum that only 60% of the Borough was participating in recycling and he provided examples of side waste reduction together with a list of neighbouring authorities that did not collect side waste. He further reported that the cost to the Council Tax payers for refuse and recycling in 2006/07 was £38.30 per annum which was less than 0.75p per week per household.

A member of the public referred to the "bring sites" and specifically one in Edenfield which was often overloaded. She suggested that a telephone number be made available on the site so that members of the public could contact the Council letting them know when it was full. Heidi Finlay agreed to look into this proposal further.

In response to a question about those properties that would find recycling difficult due to not having room to store bins, Heidi Finlay reported that in some cases communal bin stores could be provided and sacks were offered to householders instead of bins.

In response to a question about the type of plastics that could be recycled, Heidi Finlay reported that if plastic had a triangular symbol this could be recycled. She indicated that the NEAT Team were available to contact if anyone had a specific query.

A suggestion was made about the use of incinerators and it was reported that it was often difficult for planning permission to be obtained for this facility.

In response to a question about how people in flats were being supported to recycle, it was reported that communal facilities could be looked at or sacks provided. It was further reported that a small bin wagon was being purchased

that would be able to go up narrower streets as this was an issue in some areas.

Heidi Finlay reported that support and guidance was available from the NEAT Team and a waste audit pack was available which provided information on recycling and how to separate waste.

Heidi Finlay further reported that the NEAT Team had been busy over the last quarter and had responded to 250 complaints. She highlighted some of the projects that the Team had been involved in including Haslingden Street Fair, the Halo project, Greenfield Gardens, Victoria Park and hanging baskets in Haslingden Town Centre. It was reported that the alleygating application had been submitted to Lancashire County Council and their legal section were preparing an Order.

Councillor Ruddick on behalf of the Neighbourhood Forum thanked the NEAT team for the improvements including the tidy up close to the petrol station on Blackburn Road.

Heidi Finlay reported on a side waste roadshow which was taking place next week. She highlighted that the Team would be available at Tesco in Haslingden.

In response to a concern raised about an overgrown footpath at Victoria Park (bridle path at park bottom) Heidi Finlay reported that she had a site visit at the park on 18th September so would look at the matter.

6. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Hodson introduced Mark Bewley who had been appointed as the Community Beat Manager for Greenfield area. He informed the meeting that Lukmaan Mulla and Dave Lomas were progressing their careers.

Councillor Ruddick on behalf of the Forum thanked PCs Mulla and Lomas for the tremendous job that they had done in Haslingden and he looked forward to working with Mark.

Inspector Hodson provided an update on crime statistics from 12th June to 12th September and comparing against data at the last meeting as detailed below:

Detection figures for Rossendale West were 35.7% and across the Borough this figure was 37.2%. Inspector Hodson agreed to provide detection figures specific to the locality at the next meeting.

Reduction of 43 - all crimes committed

Reduction in criminal damage (now 30 crimes)

Reduction in violent crime by 1 (now at 76) this includes harassment, domestic arguments

Reduction of 107 anti social behaviour crimes (now at 397)

Reduction in stealing from shops/stalls by 1

Reduction in Burglaries in commercial properties by 10 (now at 15)

Personal possession robberies – 2

Inspector Hodson reassured the Forum and indicated that Rossendale was a very safe area. He reported the receipt of an email from the Chief Constable's Office regarding June and July's performance information. The Home Office had commended the Rossendale Crime and Disorder Partnership for excellent work. He informed the meeting that Rossendale was a high performing area in relation to crime and disorder.

In response to a question about the technology used for targeting cars, Inspector Hodson reported that Automatic Number Plate Recognition was used in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and the DVLA. It was reported that previous operations had been successful and at least one of those days would be held each month.

In response to concerns about anti social behaviour issues at closing time in the Edenfield area, Inspector Hodson reported that this would be referred to the officers to see if monitoring could take place.

In response to a question from Councillor Cheetham regarding the number of fixed penalties issued in the area, Inspector Hodson agreed to provide the information.

A question was raised about signage for Grane Road when accidents occurred. It was suggested that a sign be placed close to the slip road so that people had advance notice of road closures. Inspector Hodson advised the meeting that he would speak to the Communications Inspector at Burnley to try and address this.

Inspector Hodson reported that the Police were looking at how to influence perception of crime.

Councillor Sandiford requested that the cctv camera outside the garage on Blackburn Road be relocated to Deardengate.

Councillor Essex referred to the PACT meetings and reported that crimes were looked at to see if there were any patterns so that communities could work together to prevent crime.

In response to a question about how the wind turbines would be transported through Edenfield and Turn, Inspector Hodson reported that he had not received any information from the Road Management Unit.

6. GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Councillor Essex reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. He informed the meeting that all applications had been accepted and would make an impact on the local community. The Working Group were recommending approval of the following:

Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Granted (Yes or No) If No, state reason for refusal
Community Action in Rossendale	Contribution towards Haslingden Street Fair.	Granted in full £500
Rural Rossendale Trust	Contribution towards updating website and production of 5000 colour flyers to promote Rossendale Walking Festival	Granted in full £300
West View Community Action Group	Funding requested to help put on events and to purchase spring bulbs for children to plant.	Awarded £300 for Planting and Halloween Party
Grane Residents Association	Repair of footpath linking Heap Clough to Haslingden and improvement of signage.	Approved £307 subject to receiving written confirmation of who owns the land and that permission is granted to do work on the land
Edenfield & District Community Association	Purchase of lightweight folding tables to upgrade existing facilities.	Granted in full £741.84
Edenfield Village Residents Association	Purchase of bench and base for childrens play area. £484.68 for bench £100 for base materials.	Awarded £500
Stubbins Residents Association	Improve community memorial garden by providing bench, memorial plaque and planting bulbs and perennials.	Awarded £500

Starting budget = £6,220

Amount Allocated this Meeting = £3148.84

Remaining budget = £3,071.16

The Neighbourhood Forum encouraged people to apply for the remaining funding.

Councillor Ruddick reported that as a County Councillor he had £1500 to award to organisations. He informed the meeting that maximum bids were for £750 and he welcomed applications.

It was agreed that the grants as detailed above be awarded.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A summary of the questions raised during public question time are detailed below:

In respect of Free Lane Allotment Society a request was made for a self management lease to be set up with the Society and the Council.

Councillor Morris reported the receipt of a letter from a constituent relating to Blackburn Road and Haslingden Town Centre. The letter raised concerns about black bin bags on Blackburn Road and the number of fast food shops in the Town Centre and asked if there was a designated planning officer for the Haslingden area. In response Councillor Ruddick reported that a recent application for a takeaway had been refused by the Development Control Committee. Ward Walks were being held and would look at these specific issues.

A member of the public raised concern about Victoria Park and whether an alcohol free zone could be established. In response Councillor Ruddick reported that alcohol free zones were to control people going out of pubs. Councillor Essex, Children and Young Peoples Champion reported that the Council and the Police were proactive in the enforcement of the sale of alcohol and confiscation was taking place. He informed the meeting that Haslingden Library had been awarded extra resources so that the best facilities would be available for young people. It was noted that the majority of young people are positive and make a valuable contribution to their communities.

In response to a question about the removal of signs for Haslingden Street Fair, it was reported that the County Council had removed the signs as they had been illegally placed on the highway. Discussions would be held with the County Council prior to next years Fair so that promotion could take place.

Councillor Cheetham reported on the sub post office review and urged people to respond to the consultation that had started in some areas and would be commencing soon in others. Councillor Ruddick reported that the Council would provide a formal response.

Councillor Cheetham also referred to a review of public conveniences which the Council was currently undertaking. She invited people to complete the questionnaire which had been circulated at the meeting.

THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.00P.M. AND CLOSED AT 9.00P.M.