

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

Venue: Haslingden High School

Date of Meeting: 14th January 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor G Sandiford (in the Chair)
Councillors D. Smith, A. Cheetham, G. Morris, C. Pilling,
B. Essex, P Dickinson, and J. Thorne
Stuart Greenwood, Community Sergeant, Lancashire Constabulary
Heidi Finlay, Neat Team Manager
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Lorna Rourke, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Bernard Mrozek, Technical Director, Interfloor
Steve Chamberlain, Technical Manager, Interfloor**

**Approximately 30 members of the public and 1
representative from the press attended the meeting.**

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Gladys Sandiford be appointed as Chair.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair asked the Elected Member and Officers to introduce themselves to the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Pawson, S. Pawson and D. Ruddick

4. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on 17th September 2007 were circulated and the following actions were fed back to the meeting:-

- Bring Sites – phone numbers will now be published
- Edenfield Bring Site – services were reviewed and now servicing more frequently
- All vegetation cut back on path at Victoria Park.
- Blackburn Road – issued bins for storage.

- Bags are now put out on day of collection.
- Two designated planning officers for Haslingden. Details circulated on action sheet.
 - Free Lane Allotment Society – model agreement which the Association will consider prior to asking for Management Status.

It was agreed:

That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

5. Police update

The Forum welcomed Stuart Greenwood, Community Sergeant for Haslingden, who provided an update on police performance.

- Detection rate overall was 38.3%
- All crime 137 fewer, 26.5% at the last 3 months
- Burglary in dwellings 10.5%
- Vehicle Crimes 20%
- Damage 17.1%
- Violent Crime 40%
- Burglary other than in dwellings 12.5%

Stuart Greenwood highlighted that performance was good in comparison with other areas. He agreed to provide a breakdown by Wards for the next meeting.

Councillor Essex referred to monthly meetings with the Police which he and other Elected Members attended and he offered that Forum Members could contact him on any particular issue and he would raise on their behalf.

In response to a question about how many police officers were allocated to the area, Stuart Greenwood reported that there were currently three Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and three Community Beat Managers (CBMs)

Further to the last meeting the following updates were provided.

- 169 fixed penalties were issued in 2007
- Closing time in Edenfield. Review of incidents over the last 3 months (to the end of December) and only 1 incident reported.

Councillor Cheetham referred to vandalism of bus shelters which occurred two weeks ago, she asked if a police patrol could operate in the evening at weekends.

In response to a question about parking enforcement, Stuart Greenwood indicated that the Police would enforce obstructions and Parkwise enforced lines.

It was agreed that the action regarding signage on Grane Road, which was raised at the last meeting be carried forward. Councillor Essex agreed to raise at the Lancashire Local Meeting on the 15th January, 2008.

Concerns were raised by Councillor Morris regarding vehicle remains on Grane Road and he asked that the County Council take action.

Heidi Finley reported that following a request at a previous meeting to move the CCTV to the crossroads at Haslingden, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership had agreed to fund the move. This was welcomed by the Forum.

In response to discussions about the transportation of wind turbines through Edenfield it was reported that the Police had not received any complaints.

Councillor Cheetham expressed concerns about the communication arrangements and asked for this to be conveyed to the County Council. She indicated satisfaction with the Police escort and thanked residents for their support. Councillor Essex agreed to raise the matter with the County Council at Lancashire Local.

It was noted that Lancashire County Council had undertaken a highway audit prior to and post the transportation of the turbines. A request was made for the resurfacing of Rochdale Road.

In response to a question about whether the Police could target cars without tax that were parked on supermarkets. It was reported that the police could deal with incidents off the car park only. Previous operations have been conducted to pick up vehicles without tax.

6. NEAT UPDATE

Heidi Finlay provided an update on the work of the NEAT Team.

A Town Centre Caretaker had been appointed for Haslingden. The role of the officer would be to deal with Street Scene issues including litter, graffiti, small fly tipping.

In response to a question about dog fouling it was reported that if enforcement was required in a particular area, the Dog Warden would target specific problem locations.

Heidi Finlay referred to the 'caught doing right' scheme which recognised the good work of residents. She indicated that residents would be given a post card if they were seen clearing up dog fouling. If they returned the card they

would be entered into a national draw to win a year's supply of dog food plus tickets to 2008 Crufts. The Local draw would be to win a pet hamper.

It was reported by a member of the public that there were problems of dog fouling on Blackburn Road, Edenfield, near Esk Avenue.

Heidi Finlay reported that if members of the public were willing to give evidence about owners that did not pick up dog fouling, fixed penalty notices could be issued.

In response to a question about household recycling centres, Heidi reported that they were emptied twice weekly and swept daily,

A member of the public praised the work of the NEAT team and indicated that there had been a distinct improvement.

Concerns were raised about litter around the roundabout at Rising Bridge. Heidi Finlay reported that work had been undertaken with the businesses in the area and additional bins had been provided by one of the companies on the site. She confirmed that regular litter picks took place and negotiations were ongoing with the company in respect of extra bins on Blackburn Road.

In response to a question about whether the Town Centre Caretaker would inspect the public toilets in Haslingden, Heidi reported that the NEAT Team carried out inspections and monitoring was undertaken by the Police.

Concerns were raised about glass bottles and cans littering the grass verge on Blackburn Road close to Regent Street.

In response to a question about enforcement, Heidi reported that the Council could delegate authority to the Police to issue fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling. She indicated that the Police were willing to enter into a partnership. Councillor Morris highlighted that proactive enforcement should take place and an update was requested for the next meeting.

Heidi Finlay reported on the litter bin replacement scheme. She informed the meeting that defective bins would be replaced and others would be re-sited.

In response to a question about the frequency of emptying dog fouling bins, Heidi Finlay reported that they were emptied at least once a week and some were more frequent. Concerns were raised about particular areas in Victoria Park and across from the Clarence Pub.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTICE BOARDS

Heidi Finlay reported that each Forum had been allocated funds for two notice boards and she outlined the previous suggestions which had been made. She indicated that they would be for use by the Council and the Community and contact details would be available on the Boards.

The Forum welcomed the idea for the notice boards but raised concern that funds for only two boards were available. Councillors Sandiford and Essex reported that they would take this back to try to obtain further funds.

It was agreed that the following be prioritised with a view to more funds being made available:

Priority One – Haslingden, outside the library
Priority Two – Strongstry, near the Post Box
Priority Three – Rising Bridge

It was suggested that partners including the Police and Green Vale homes should be contacted asking for contributions for funding additional boards.

8. INTERFLOOR

The meeting welcomed Bernard Mrozek and Steve Chamberlain who agreed to provide an update on the abatement system.

Mr Mrozek provided some background information and he informed the meeting that new owners were in place from August 2005 who were committed to finding a solution. A programme of works was developed and installation took place in August 2007. In September commissioning had to be halted as there was a fault with the main fan and a replacement was fitted in December. All fumes were being processed through the RTO from 3rd January 2008.

It was noted that a resident of Grasmere Road could no longer smell the fumes. It was further noted by a resident that fumes could be detected from Irwell Vale Road on a dry evening. Another resident also indicated that fumes could still be smelt and she extended an invitation to Mr Mrozek to visit her property in order to assess the matter.

In response to a question about concerns for peoples' health it was reported that there was a minimum criteria to meet and rubber fumes were not detriment to health.

A resident of Chester Crescent thanked the company as they could no longer smell fumes.

Lorna Rourke, Principal Environmental Health Officer reported that the installation was only recently up and running and further monitoring would take place.

It was reported that only one stack would remain and two would be demolished.

Steve Chamberlain reported that employees within the company had a role to go round the vicinity to do assessments and since the 3rd January there was a zero detection rate.

It was reported that should residents have any problems they could report the matter directly to the Council's Environmental Health Team.

Mr Mrozek extended an invitation to residents to take them round the factory.

The Forum requested a further update at the next meeting and thanked Mr Mrozek and Mr Chamberlain for attending the meeting.

9. BUDGET CONSULTATION

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council gave a presentation on the Budget Consultation for 2008/09 and he referred to the budget consultation document which had been circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Essex reported that the budget would focus on the Pride in Rossendale as a place to live, work and visit through a number of ways including:

- improved floral displays
- improved maintenance of gateway sites and improved signage
- providing free access to leisure facilities for the families of regular service people living in Rossendale
- improvements to the maintenance regime for war memorials and memorial gardens
- A renewed sense of Civic Pride in Rossendale through work with the Mayor to celebrate the work of the volunteers
- Value for Money through continuing to drive out efficiencies particularly through continuing to invest in IT to automate what we do

Councillor Essex reported that money would be available in the next financial year for work exclusively for the Haslingden area.

The meeting discussed concessionary fares including the benefits of the scheme together with the financial impact.

Councillor Essex encouraged the Forum to take the consultation document away and any comments could be sent by email to budget@rossendalebc.gov.uk

10. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Councillor Essex reported the receipt of three applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. He outlined the recommendations of the Working Group as detailed below.

Organisation	Application Details	Amount Awarded
Grane Residents Association	Improvement of footpath linking Heap Clough to Haslingden by planting bluebells. Permission from Landowner obtained.	£300
Stubbins Residents Association	Funding for permanent flowering plants in the memorial garden on Bolton Road, Stubbins. Also require weedkiller for the block paving in the garden. Work is to finish the project by filling the large gaps in the flowerbeds.	£250
43rd Rossendale Scout Group (St Thomas' Church Helmshore)	Upgrading of land to side of churchyard - levelling and applying gravel to make better parking area and create area that can be used for camp fires etc.	£500
	Remaining in budget	£2021.16

Balance from last meeting £3071.16
Funds allocated at this meeting £1050
Remaining in budget £2021.16

It was noted that £2021.16 remained available for March's Forum and that grant forms could be obtained from Democratic Services on 01706 252423 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk The deadline for receipt of applications is 29th February.

Resolved:

That the grants be agreed.

11. OPEN FORUM

Concerns were raised by Grane Residents Association in respect of communication between their group and the Council's Planning Department. It was reported that they had sent a letter regarding the Snow King Development and although a reply had been received it had not provided conclusive answers to the questions which were raised as summarised below:

1. Can the Council confirm whether the correct building materials were used?
2. The applicant agree to provide additional parking adjacent to the unit in Gas Street. Can the Council confirm that parking provision has been provided?
3. Can the Council confirm what progress has been made in respect of the planting of replacement trees along Grane Road.
4. Can the Council provide an update on the representations that have been made in relation to security lights in operation on the site which are causing problems to residents with properties overlooking the site.

The Chair reported that she would ensure a response was sent.

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

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.35pm)