

Notes of: BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Stacksteads Neighbourhood Activity Centre

Date of Meeting: 13 March 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor W Challinor (in the Chair)
Councillors Driver, Durkin, Eaton and Lamb
County Councillor Serridge, Lancashire County Council
Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary
Dave McChesney, NEAT Officer
Julie Jackson, NEAT Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Jo Gibbs, Assistant District Partnership Officer -
Rossendale**

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Haworth and Steen

3. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2008 were circulated and the following actions were fed back to the meeting:-

- a) Councillor Driver confirmed that she had now received details of future PACT Meetings
- b) Inspector Wilkinson confirmed that there would be Police presence at the Easter Festival at Bacup Leisure Hall on 22 March 2008.

It was agreed:

That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

4. Police update

The Forum welcomed Inspector Neil Wilkinson, who provided an update on police performance. Comparative figures for the same period last year were as follows.

	2008	2007
Burglaries	66	32
Crime	30	72
Violent crime	66	78
Damage	96	92

The overall detection rate was 37.6%.

Inspector Wilkinson indicated that Rossendale's Crime Disorder and Reduction Partnership was again looking to be the best performing Partnership in the North West. This would be confirmed shortly.

Additional funding has been made available to purchase hand-held speed cameras, with training being provided to enable Police officers to use them rather than traffic police.

A Youth Initiative Day was held which was widely publicised, but only 14 children attended.

A recent power has been given to the Police under the Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act which enabled Police to move people causing a nuisance from the town centre for 48 hours. If they return during this period they can be arrested.

A number of questions were raised and answered by Inspector Wilkinson in relation to the number of people purchasing alcohol under the age of 18. Inspector Wilkinson indicated that as far as he was aware the figures were quite low, but he agreed to bring these to the next meeting.

During the last few months three off licences had failed 'test purchasing'. In relation to the possession of alcohol, the Police seize 'open cans from anyone drinking alcohol on the streets.

Due to recent incidents on Rawtenstall Market, it was agreed to supply all stallholders with details of the PCSO's mobile numbers.

There was also discussion on zero tolerance for anti-social behaviour, especially around the market.

5. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS

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

Organisation	Application Details	Amount Awarded
Stacksteads Riverside Park Group	To purchase a large gazebo for the summer fair which can accommodate several stall holders.	Nil
Stacksteads Riverside Park Group	To provide year 4 (8-9 year olds) in local schools and also in the after school clubs that we operate, with seed trays that can be cultivated and grown into miniature gardens using ornaments the children feel are appropriate.	£350
Stacksteads Riverside Park Group	To purchase bird boxes which will be erected in the newly designated Stacksteads Country Park.	£400
The Bacup Consortium Trust	Easter Festival – 22 March. Leaflet programme and marketing materials, children's entertainers/children's crafts.	£750
Weir Community Partnership	Purchase of kitchen units and workshops to provide base for community café in the Doals Centre, serving light refreshments – a community hob	£750
		£2250

Balance from last meeting £2320.00
Funds allocated at this meeting £2250

It was noted that £70 would be carried forward to next year'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 6 June 2008.

Councillor Challinor asked that once the organisation had spent their money it would be appropriate, for audit purposes, for the Council to be sent copies of receipts. Reminder letters had been sent to those organisations that had received money but had not yet sent copies of receipts.

Councillor Durkin informed the Forum that Sunnycrest, who had been given grant money at the last meeting had an under-spend and had been informed by the Council that they could spend the money on other things for the

community centre. Councillor Durkin asked for written permission from the Council before the additional money was spent.

There was discussion about including the Rossendale logo on such things as leaflet which provides information that an event has been supported by the Council. Rossendale Academy of Arts had publicised the fact that the Council had supported their event.

Resolved:

That the grants be agreed

6. NEAT Update

Julie Jackson provided an update on the work of the NEAT Team between Dec 07- Feb 08, which included:

- Returned to empty 124 contaminated containers (tapped up 423 containers)
- Completed 229 Hit Team jobs
- Collected 352 Christmas trees
- Delivered 2083 waste containers of which 87.2% were for recycling
- Returned to collect 111 'Gesture of Goodwill' where the customer has presented their waste container for collection
- Dealt with 668 bulky waste/white goods collection
- Dealt with 5136 enquiries from customers that required logging on Flare

Julie also gave an update on a number of projects taking place throughout Bacup including

- Alley gating projects in Birch St/Sheppard St
- Alley gating project in Yorkshire Street
- Screening off of recycling bins at Bacup Leisure Hall
- Replacement of 4 benches in Stacksteads

The public raised a number of concerns, which Julie agreed to take forward which were as follows.

- Dog fouling signs by the Post Office in Stacksteads
- Rose Hill Street Development Work
- Bacup Community Action Plan
- Dumped hardcore next to the Ambulance Station
- Swilling of dog fouling onto a back street

7. OPEN FORUM

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

- Need for zebra crossing on Newchurch Road, opposite the Rose and Bowl
- Need to remove parking restrictions on Saturday afternoon after 2pm on Newchurch Road
- Recycling of materials
- Pot holes in roads – severe pot holes repaired within 24 hours
- Vision of Bacup

County Councillor Eaton briefed the Forum on the road gullies in the Borough indicating that there are more than 17,000 road gullies in Rossendale, which were cleaned annually. He gave out the telephone number for anyone with problems.

There was discussion on Bacup being named the best preserved mill town in the North West.

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

(The meeting commenced at 7pm and closed at 8.35pm)

Signed

(Chair)

Date