

Notes of: RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

**Venue: St Paul's Centre, off Burnley Road,
Rawtenstall, BB4 8HT**

Date of Meeting: 13th March 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor A. Barnes (in the Chair)
Councillors Crawforth, Farrington, Gill, Nuttall, and
Robertson
Inspector Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary
David Whiteman, NEAT Manager
Carolyn Law, Committee and Member Services Officer**

8 members of the public 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 Forshaw, Graham, Hewlett, Swain, Unsworth and also from Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Alec Tattersall NEAT Team.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 21st January 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

An update was provided on actions from the previous meeting:

- The NEAT Manager had sent the Cleansing Staff contact details to Councillor Forshaw as requested. The litter had been removed from the path at Oakley and the branches at the base of the trees on Burnley Road had been tidied.
- Grants agreed at the meeting on 21st January had now been allocated.
- Councillor Swain would continue to pursue a meeting with the owner of the land near Bank Street.
- PACT meetings were being advertised more widely, information is on the web site and an email is sent to Councillors and the NEAT Officer. Posters are also distributed and information is sent to the Free Press.

- Members were reminded to send their suggestions in concerning the siting of the Neighbourhood Notice Boards.
- A briefing note on Road Gullies in Rossendale was noted from the Engineering Services Manager from Lancashire County Council (LCC).

Members of the public raised issues concerning:

- The frequency of gulley cleaning
- The gulley cleaning machines being unsuitable in some areas

The Chair reminded members of the public that if they identified a problem with a gulley they could report it to Highways. This would result in the gulley being cleaned and would enable Highways to identify where problem areas were. The Chair informed the meeting that the issues concerning gulleys had been raised at Lancashire Local meetings and had also been raised at Overview and Scrutiny. Suggestion forms were available for members of the public to identify any issues they would like to see scrutinised in the coming year (minute 7).

4. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Hodson updated the Forum on policing matters and crime statistics for the area.

He informed the meeting that Rawtenstall Police Station now have their own link to the web site and can update their own information. Members of the public can enter their postcode to find out what is happening in their area, find dates and venues for PACT meetings, and contact details of their Community Police Officers.

During the last quarter there were minor fluctuations in crime, whilst most crimes were down there was a slight increase in burglaries to residential properties, this was mainly owing to complacency. Inspector Hodson urged members of the public to be vigilant and not leave doors open or keys on display.

Rossendale was classed as one of the best performing areas in the North West of England, and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership had recently achieved an award for their neighbourhood policing. Figures showed that crime had dropped over the last 4 years

The Chair encouraged members of the public to attend PACT meetings.

Members of the public discussed the following issues:

- The fence around the Tesco car park at Rawtenstall.

- Footpaths being cut off behind the supermarket.
- Bus shelter surveys and the condition of shelters.
- Traffic speed on Bacup Road.
- Sheep on Bacup Road.
- Noise and disorder in Rawtenstall Town Centre at weekend.
- The need for cell facilities to detain people in Rossendale.
- Could PACT meetings be advertised on the Council website?

In response to questions from members of the public it was agreed that:

- The Committee Services Officer would investigate whether the details of PACT meetings could be linked to the Council website.
- The Civic Trust would write to Tesco with their concerns over the footpaths and fence around the car park.
- Members of the public would inform Community Safety Officers of areas where speeding was a problem.
- Members of the public would inform the Community Safety Officers if they noticed escaped sheep.
- The member of public with concerns over noise and disorder in Rawtenstall Town Centre would take the issue to the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

5. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS & FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Councillor A.Barnes reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. She informed the meeting that £1,571 had been allocated and there was no money to carry over to the new financial year. The Working Group was recommending approval of the following:

Organisation Name	£ Requested	Purpose of Grant	Granted (Yes or No) If No, state reason for refusal	Funding Granted
Rawtenstall Public Welfare Committee	250.00	Equipment (tables, chairs, cloths, cutlery, etc) to launch a senior citizen's luncheon club.	Yes	250.00
The Rossendale Rubicon	750.00	Introduction to 'Exercise' course by use of Microsoft Wii and exercise and brain training software. Purchase of Wii, television and software.	Yes	750.00

Newchurch Methodist Church	750.00	Provision of new facilities e.g. meeting/catering facilities to attract other groups for example lunch clubs and to reach out to the local community.	Yes	571.00
Rosendale Civic Trust	750.00	Purchase of EVAC Chair	Deferred until the outcome of other sources of funding have been confirmed.	0.00
Total Applied For	2500.00		Total Awarded	1571.00

Balance from last meeting = £1,571
Amount Allocated This Meeting = £1,571
Remaining budget = £0

The Neighbourhood Forum encouraged people to apply for funding for the new financial year. Forms were available at the meeting and were also available from the Democratic Services Team. The deadline for the next round would be agreed once the date of the next Neighbourhood Forum had been confirmed, but it was likely to be June 2008.

The NEAT Manager informed the meeting that there was also grant money available through Lancashire Greener Wards, and grant forms were available through the NEAT Team.

IT WAS AGREED – That the grants as detailed above be awarded.

6. NEAT Update

The NEAT Manager informed the meeting that the Town Centre Caretakers had received their training and were getting used to common issues arising in their areas. They were speaking to members of the public to familiarise themselves with persistent problems, and were feeding back to the team where there were areas requiring additional attention. A member of the public welcomed the new team and their ability to work on their own initiative, without having a rigid schedule.

The Ward Walks were coming to an end and several issues identified from these were now being addressed. The NEAT Team was currently looking at increasing recycling and were working in partnership with Greenvale Homes to promote recycling. Waste Audit packs were still being provided by the

NEAT Team to enable people to do their own waste audits. If required, an officer would come out to explain and undertake a waste audit.

Work had been undertaken on Bury Road to clear the weeds from the cobbles outside the shops. LCC had also been contacted to see if issues of people parking half on the roadway and half on the pavement could be addressed.

Papermaking had been done in schools and was available on request.

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Cornmill Lane and land at the back of Robert Street was becoming a problematic area for littering.
- Land with a path near the two primary schools at the bottom of Haslingden Old Road was littered.
- The area between the Library and Melia Close was littered.

In response to questions from members of the public it was agreed that:

- The NEAT Manager would look into the issues at Cornmill Lane and land at the back of Robert Street.
- A member of the public was to inform the NEAT Manger where the land near the two primary schools at the bottom of Haslingden Old Road was, so that the littering issues could be addressed.
- The Town Centre Caretakers would be asked to address the area between the Library and Melia Close, which was being littered.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2008/09

The Chair informed the meeting that members of the public were being consulted on what they would like to see reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to improve the quality of local services. Forms requesting feedback were distributed and should be returned to Democratic Services. Spare forms were also available on request from the Democratic Services Team.

8. Hot Topic – Forum funding for the next 12 months

Neighbourhood Forum Funding for the next financial year had been confirmed as £7,260. Application forms were available from the Democratic Services Team.

9. Open Forum

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Joined up thinking on planning issues and forward planning.

- What was happening with the land at Constablee Court which was owned by a Housing Association, as it was now looking a mess.

In response to questions from members of the public it was agreed that:

- The Committee Services Officer would look into what was planned for the land at Constablee Court.

The Chair informed the meeting that consultations were underway concerning the new health facility. The consultation booklet and dates of meetings were circulated. The date and venue for Rawtenstall would be 12.00 - 2.00pm at St Mary's Chambers.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.30pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: