

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

Venue: Haslingden High School

Date of Meeting: 24th June 2008

**PRESENT: Councillor G Sandiford (in the Chair)
Councillors A. Cheetham, P Dickinson, B. Essex, P. Evans,
G. Morris, C. Pilling, J.Thorne**

**ALSO PRESENT: Inspector David Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary
Aled Thomas, Neat Officer
Carolyn Law, Committee and Member Services Officer
Jerry Smith, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Jim Pilling
Steve Downey, Managing Director, Interfloor
Joanne Miller, Consultant
Ros Sudworth, Area Librarian
Heather Pitman, Haslingden Librarian**

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

The Chair updated the meeting with information about the following items:

- Overview and Scrutiny Questionnaire for Road Safety and the BT Telephone Box consultation. The Chair invited members of the public to contribute their views on these two items.
- As a result of the feedback on the Bus Depot proposal, the planning application was delayed in order to allow further consultations. Revised plans were subsequently submitted taking into account concerns raised by members of the public. The plans were passed with additional conditions relating to concerns identified.
- A Task and Finish Group had been set up to look into grass cutting and developing a synchronised approach between Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Highways Agency and Greenvale Homes.

- The gully cleaning service between Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council would also be reviewed by the Executive Director of Regulatory Services.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Smith and D. Stansfield.

3. Minutes

The Chair updated the meeting on the actions from the meeting held on 17th March 2008:

- Information was circulated in relation to dates of closures and work to be undertaken on Grane Road. Signage was due to be in place this week. Engineers were aware of potential problems as raised at Lancashire Local. Jerry Smith would follow up regarding dates for signage to be displayed. Inspector Hodson and Jerry Smith were requested to follow up whether signage could be displayed in Ramsbottom to inform people of the road closure. Inspector Hodson also informed that if need arises then speed indication devices could be used on roads affected as a result of the closure to Grane Road. Any additional issues would be followed up by the Road Safety Task and Finish Group.
- Grants allocations had been transferred to successful applicants from the previous meeting.
- The replacement litter bin has been put on Manchester Road near the bus stop (originally at the end of Clod Lane).
- Refuse on the A56 has been referred to the Highways Agency, who have a regular cleaning programme on this road. The owner of a piece of land with the overhanging trees on Blackburn Road, Edenfield was currently being traced. The road signs on Grane Road are due to be replaced as part of the safety scheme to be carried out in August, the Road Safety Task and Finish Group were asked to report back on this item.
- The suggestions for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan had been fed back and had resulted in the Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group and the review of gully cleaning.
- An urgent care centre would be included as part of the new health facility in Rawtenstall. A sub-group has been set up to look at what people want to see in an urgent care centre.

It was agreed: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

4. Police Update

The Forum welcomed Inspector David Hodson who provided an update on police performance.

Over the last 4 years some excellent results have been achieved and classed as best CDRP in the North West. Most crimes in the Haslingden area had reduced when compared with the same period last year as follows:

Crime Type:	All Crime	Vehicle Crime	Violent Crime	Hate Crime	Stealing From Shops Stalls	Burglaries in Commercial Properties	Robbery Personal Property
Number Reported:	339	20	68	6	10	19	1
Reduced By:	27	17	5	2	2	6	1

The following crimes had increased:

Crime Type:	Burglary in/around Dwellings	Criminal Damage	Anti Social Behaviour
Number Reported:	20	96	484
Increased By:	4	16	126

Inspector Hodson reported that the criminal damage figure had increased owing to 21 vehicles being damaged on the same night between 31/03/08 and 01/04/08 in Haslingden Town Centre. He requested that anyone with information relating to these crimes report it. "Operation Summer Nights" would be starting again and work would be undertaken with other agencies to tackle issues concerning drink related crime, anti social behavior and criminal damage. Work was being undertaken with Greater Manchester Police on "Operation Vault" which covered cash machine robberies, and transits transporting cash to/from businesses. The close proximity to Manchester and the motorway network means Rossendale is a target area for this type of crime. Preventative work will continue. Operations had also been undertaken on Scout Moor dealing with off road vehicles/cycles.

Councillor Cheetham thanked Inspector Hodson and his colleagues for their work at Scout Moor.

During the police update the following issues were raised by Councillors and members of the public:

- Noise and loud music
- Aggressive behavior and foul language
- Theft of personal belongings
- Changes in staffing of Community Beat Managers (CBMs) and Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs)
- PACT Meetings

The Chair informed the meeting that a telephone number was available to report noise nuisance. Inspector Hodson informed that instances of foul language and aggression should be reported to the PCSO. He also stressed that members of the public should always be careful with personal property and to lock doors and not leave valuables on display. Details of CBMs and PCSOs could be found on the web site, as well as dates for PACT meetings. Meetings are held on a monthly basis at Haslingden Library.

5. NEAT UPDATE

The NEAT Officer provided an update on the work of the NEAT Team.

- Environmental issues
- Litter
- Dog Fouling
- Recycling
- Refuse
- Enforcement
- Education e.g. going into schools such as Edenfield Primary School
- 22 new litter bins had been installed
- 2 community notice boards were due on Deardengate and at Strongstry

Following an enquiry from a member of the public regarding dog fouling, the NEAT Officer requested residents pass their concerns on hot spots and problem areas to the Dog Warden. Hot spots identified at the meeting were Greenfield Gardens, Stubbins and Chatterton, and Rising Bridge Road/Blackburn Road. One member of the public suggested clearing grass cuttings to discourage fouling on grassed areas.

6. INTERFLOOR

Steve Downey Managing Director of Interfloor gave an update on the current position. At the end of May when the machine was started up 2 valves closed at the same time and caused the duct work to collapse. These have now been repaired and strengthened. The emissions were now more controlled with the oxidiser and last week there were no emissions. The machine had been running better in the last 2 weeks and they were making progress.

The Chair informed the meeting there had been reports of good feedback from residents.

Joanne Miller informed that she has seen measures put in place to resolve problems and was pleased that residents were now seeing improvements. She would be continuing to work with Interfloor, and urged residents to contact them if any issues arose so they could be addressed.

It was agreed: that Steve Downey and Joanne Miller be invited to the next meeting.

7. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS & FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Previous applicants informed the meeting of how they had spent their grants and thanked the Neighbourhood Forum for their support:

Community Action in Rossendale – funding from the Forum supported the Haslingden Street Fair, approximately 5000 people attended the event and attractions such as family entertainers, jugglers, dancers, stilt-walkers etc., were provided. The next event would be on 6th September and circus skills workshops had been planned to get more members of the community involved.

Free Lane Community Allotment Society – extensive work had been undertaken on the plot which had been turned into an allotment. The grant had been used to purchase a shed, tools and to replace fencing. Schools in Haslingden and Helmshore had contributed to growing vegetables.

Stubbins Residents Association – the Forum grant contributed towards perennials in the memorial garden and a bench. They now have a focal point which has been woven in willow by mill workers. They are now working on a lifesize figure of a mill worker also in willow. This time plants were being grown from seed and bulbs had already been dried out ready to be used again. They had entered the North West in Bloom competition which was being decided on 17th July 2008.

Edenfield Village School – have now purchased a laptop as recommended by OFSTED, which is being put to good use. Work on the outside play area starts on 7th July. There is currently a problem with Japanese Lock Weed, but advice has been sought and the parents of the pre-school group have worked hard to get support for free.

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

Organisation	Application Details	Amount Awarded
Edenfield and Stubbins Social	Two day trips, in August	£350 (to be

Group (Affiliated to Age Concern Lancashire)	2008 to Southport and one to Millstones Harrogate, December 2008 for Christmas lunch.	awarded for the first trip).
Edenfield Methodist Church	To purchase lightweight folding and stacking chairs.	£500
Stubbins Residents Association	To purchase 2 planters for siting at the top and bottom of the village.	£500
	Total Awarded June 2008	£1350.00

Further applications were welcomed and application forms could be obtained from the Democratic Services Team on 01706 252422 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk The deadline for receipt of applications for the next round of grants would be 12th September 2008.

Starting balance for 2008/2009 £6220.00
Funds allocated at this meeting £1350.00
Remaining in budget £4870.00

Resolved: That the grants be agreed.

8. HASLINGDEN LIBRARY

Ros Sudworth informed the meeting of the current and upcoming activities at Haslingden Library:

- Young People's Homework Club
- Learning Places
- Positive Start Group
- 11+ Homework Club
- Projects e.g. Haslingden Life – photography
- Headspace – would open Monday, building now complete
- PACT
- Yoga
- Councillor Surgeries
- Adult Learning
- Routes History Group
- Lancashire Reads

Events taking place at the Library were community events, and they would be looking at ways to extend their services and involve the community.

Heather Pitman reported that they had applied to the Big Lottery Fund and had been awarded £325,000. Haslingden, Colne and Lancaster were also part of the project. Works would start in September, however they were not

expecting any disruption to services as a result. Friends of Haslingden Library would be meeting this Thursday at 6.00pm with a further meeting on 22nd July 2008, everyone was welcome.

Councillor Pilling asked a question on behalf of a constituent regarding noise in the Library on the last few visits. Ros Sudworth informed there were times when the Library was quieter, but they were promoting activities to try to get more people involved. This would mean that there would be some noise, however, the lottery funding would be used to provide different areas so that a balance could be achieved.

Councillor Essex commented that the mobile Library in Edenfield and Helmshore was good for those unable to access the Library in Haslingden and provided a good community service.

Councillor Cheetham informed that the County Rider service could be booked a week in advance to take people to the Library and bring them back at a set time if they found it difficult to access.

The NEAT Officer was asked to investigate improvements to the fountain, and the siting of the bench and the notice boards outside the library.

9. OPEN FORUM

The Chair requested that the area with the trees to the rear of the Library be weeded.

A member of the public queried whether signs could be put up on Chatterton Lane to warn of horses on the road, as there had been a few incidents where there had almost been an accident.

A member of the public asked for an update on the notice boards. The Chair confirmed that the notice boards at Strongstry and near the Library would be sited shortly, with an additional notice board to follow at Rising Bridge.

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

Date of the next meeting: 29th September 2008.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.45pm)

Signed: _____
(Chair)

Date: _____