

Notes of: WHITWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Whitworth Civic Hall

Date of Meeting 24th June 2008

Present: Councillor L Barnes (Chair)
Councillor T Aldred
Councillor R Wilson
Councillor A Neal
County Councillor S Serridge
Whitworth Town Councillor D Barnes
PC R Thomas, Lancashire Constabulary
L Fisher, Executive Director of Regulatory Services RBC
C Taylor, NEAT Officer RBC
J Smith, Democratic Services RBC
J Gibbs, Lancashire County Council
B Drelincourt, Rossendale Transport

Also Present: 24 members of the Public and 1 member of the press

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and in agreement with members of the Forum invited Mr Barry Drelincourt of Rossendale Transport to update the meeting on changes to services and fares.

Mr Drelincourt explained which services were free to those residents with concessions and answered questions from members of the public.

The Chair thanked Mr Drelincourt for attending the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2008

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

a) Action Sheet:

The Action sheet was discussed and updates since publication of the Agenda were noted.

4. POLICE UPDATE

Summary of Update from PC Thomas

PC Thomas updated the Forum on crime rates and policing in the area and explained that there had been a 1.1% overall decrease in crime for the area. He reported on operations that would tackle drug crime, anti-social behaviour, burglary committed by criminals travelling into the area and joint operations with Greater Manchester Police to combat off road vehicle violations on the moor.

PC Thomas was pleased to further report that a hand held laser speed gun had been purchased for Rossendale and that community operations had been planned for the future.

AGREED - That PC Thomas would update the next meeting of this Forum on night speeding checks between 9.30pm and 10.30pm.

Questions to the Police

PC Thomas took questions from the public and the following matters were discussed:

- Arson attacks at Mill premises within Whitworth.
- Road safety, recent accidents and speeding concerns.

The Chair thanked PC Thomas for attending the meeting.

5. NEAT UPDATE

The NEAT Officer provided the Forum with a brief report of issues dealt with between March and June this year including the number of service requests, notices served and prosecutions brought which had resulted in £4,475 of fines.

She further reported that the NEAT teams were currently involved with a number of schools and community groups across the borough to promote and educate residents about the benefits of recycling, neighbourhood grants and generally improve local areas.

The NEAT officer received and answered questions from members of the public on a wide range of issues.

6. DETERMINING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

There was one application for grant funding which needed further information before being submitted to the next meeting. Feedback had been received from existing recipients of grant funding.

Starting balance for 2008/2009 £2440.00
Funds allocated at this meeting £0.00
Remaining in budget £2440.00

Grant forms could be obtained from Democratic Services on 01706 252424 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

7. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Congestion charges in Manchester
- Cycleway to link Rochdale and Rawtenstall's redeveloped town centres
- United Utilities reinstatement of cycleway following works
- Grass cutting on steep banking
- Blocked sewer at Edgemoor Close
- Speed restrictions on Tonacliffe Road
- Status of TPO process

The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 8.50pm