

**Notes of: RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**Venue: Loveclough Social Club, Commercial Street, off Burnley Road, Loveclough, Rossendale, BB4 8QX**

**Date of Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008**

**PRESENT: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)  
Councillors A. Barnes, Crawforth, Farrington, Forshaw, Gill, Gledhill, May, Nuttall, and Robertson**

**ALSO PRESENT: Inspector Dave Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary  
Sergeant Natasha Shaw, Lancashire Constabulary  
Senga Lindsay, Primary Care Trust  
Joanne Howard, Primary Care Trust  
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer – Lancashire County Council  
Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive  
Alec Tattersall, NEAT Officer  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer**

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

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## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed members of the public 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.
- Importance of returning receipts to evidence grant spend for audit purposes.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Pilling and Unsworth, and also from Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Dave Whiteman, NEAT Team.

### 3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

### 4. HEALTH CAMPUS UPDATE

Senga Lindsay and Joanne Howard updated the Forum on the new Health Campus for Rawtenstall. Packs were distributed showing plans of the site, location and planned space usage of the new facility.

Senga informed the meeting that there had been six rounds of public meetings since last September in addition to partnership working with other organisations such as Lancashire County Council and Social Services. As part of the proposals, the current Health Centre Services would be relocated to the new Campus. Senga informed the meeting of the types of services that would be available at the Health Campus including the addition of extra facilities as a result of recent consultations. Additional facilities would include: Mental Health, Ear, Nose and Throat, Birthing Unit, and an Urgent Care Walk-in Centre.

Members of the public discussed the following issues:

- An additional practice in Rawtenstall.
- The existing Health Centre.
- Joined / mixed use facilities.
- Informing householders further up Bacup Road towards Waterfoot of the proposals of the building and car park.
- Being unable to book doctors appointments, as soon as the phone lines open and you get through all the appointments have gone.
- Facilities for community groups.
- What would happen to the existing Health Centre?
- Would there be a crossing point?

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

- There were proposals for an additional doctors practice.
- The existing Health Centre services including Dr Bach's practice would move to the new Health Campus.
- There would be multi purpose suites available and information points, so work could be joined up with other organisations such as the police, etc.
- Information had gone out to householders on Bacup Road in the vicinity of the Health Centre and there had been an open day to look at the proposals in more detail. Additional information would also be posted on the web site.
- If anyone had any concerns over being unable to get doctors appointments they could contact Michelle Chapel at the Primary Care

Trust who monitors these issues; once the new Health Campus opened the Walk-in Centre would help resolve some of these issues.

- There would be a suite of rooms available for meetings, which would include use for community groups.
- The site of the existing Health Centre would provide parking spaces; 10% of which would be for disabled use. There would be no charge on the car park, but it would need to be regulated in some way. Further discussions were planned for this.
- A puffin crossing was proposed to provide a crossing point from the car park.

Elected Members discussed the following issues:

- The percentage of people from Rossendale using accident and emergency services who could be treated once the new facility was opened.
- Would the Centre be nurse led?
- How would you know when to use this facility and what are the opening times?
- The positive impact on the regeneration of Rawtenstall.

In response to issues raised by Members it was confirmed that:

- Around 500 people from Rossendale a week attend Accident and Emergency for things that could be treated elsewhere; the new facility would be able to accommodate this.
- The Centre would be nurse led but doctors would be available to refer to if required.
- For an emergency you would call an ambulance, otherwise you would use the Urgent Care facility. If you arrived at Urgent Care and needed more attention you would be taken to the nearest Accident and Emergency Unit.

Senga informed the members of the public that there would be monthly meetings to discuss services, car parking arrangements, etc., and anyone wanting to be involved in the meetings was invited to pass their details to Senga. Comments and questions were also invited and the Chair encouraged members of the public to feed back their comments and questions using the sheets at the back of the packs.

## **5. POLICE UPDATE**

Inspector Hodson introduced Sergeant Natasha Shaw and updated the Forum on policing matters and crime statistics for the area.

Over the last 4 years some excellent results have been achieved and the Crime, Disorder and Reduction Partnership (CDRP) was classed as best in the North West. Good work had been achieved with partnership working.

Most crimes in the Rawtenstall area had reduced when compared with the same period last year as follows:

Crime Type:	All Crime	Burglary in/around Dwellings	Criminal Damage	Violent Crime	Hate Crime	Anti Social Behaviour
Number Reported:	278	12	63	46	4	422
Reduced By:	72	5	50	0	10	2

The following crimes had increased:

Crime Type:	Vehicle Crime	Stealing From Shops Stalls	Burglaries in Commercial Properties
Number Reported:	45	18	24
Increased By:	3	7	3

Inspector Hodson reported that crime was on a downward trend and good work was being done. "Operation Summer Nights" had just started again and work would be undertaken with other agencies to tackle issues concerning drink related crime, anti social behavior and criminal damage. The police were hoping to secure extra funding for additional officers, and they would be targeting areas where problems had been identified.

Sergeant Shaw introduced herself to the meeting and gave an update on local issues. Business Watch had started in June in Rawtenstall Town Centre as a result of increased criminal damage and littering. Last year seventy-nine crimes were reported, this figure had been reduced to three in one month. Sergeant Shaw informed the meeting that to make a difference it was important to work together. Information from members of the community was important when dealing with crime, particularly in relation to drugs. Members of the public were encouraged to report any issues.

Members of the public and elected members discussed the following issues:

- Speed checking at night.
- Speeding and overtaking on the wrong side of the road on Burnley Road.
- Film in the speed camera on Burnley Road.
- Cars and motorbikes parked at the bottom of Goodshaw Avenue where the yellow lines used to be.
- Cyclists on footpaths.
- Parking on pavements at the bottom of Burnley Road near the tile shop.
- Reversing onto the main road and parking on double yellow lines to load at the carpet shop near the Fire Station.

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

- Speeding issues could be taken to the PACT meetings as speed detection equipment had been purchased.
- There was film in the speeding camera higher up Burnley Road.
- The yellow lines at the bottom of Goodshaw Avenue would be investigated with Lancashire County Council.
- Parking on the pavement near the tile shop and the double yellow lines near the carpet shop in Rawtenstall would be investigated up by the police.

## 6. ACTION SHEET

The Chair gave an update on the actions from the previous meeting:

- Notice boards were on the agenda for decision.
- Councillor Swain had invited the owner of the land near Bank Street to a meeting to discuss the future use of the land, however, the owner had not agreed to meet.
- PACT meetings were already linked to the Council website and details could be found on the Action Sheet.
- Grants agreed at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March had now been allocated.
- Signs and fencing were up between Cornmill Lane and land at the back of Robert Street.
- Larger items of litter had been removed and education would be undertaken with the schools on Haslingden Old Road to try and prevent littering. The NEAT officer would follow up regarding the ownership of the path and whether it was a right of way.
- The Town Centre Caretaker had cleared the area between the Library and Melia Close and would continue to monitor the area.
- The Housing Association had obtained a grant to develop affordable housing on the land at Constable Court.

Elected Members raised the following issues:

- Nettles growing out of the pavement opposite Aspendos restaurant on Burnley Road.

In response to questions from Elected Members it was agreed that:

- The NEAT Officer would follow up regarding who owns the path near the two primary schools and whether it was a right of way.
- The NEAT Officer would look into the nettles growing out of the pavement opposite Aspendos restaurant on Burnley Road.

## **7. NEAT UPDATE**

The NEAT Officer gave a brief overview of his role and the types of tasks undertaken, including education in local schools, events, litter, dog fouling, properties in a state of disrepair, etc.

Members of the public and Elected Members discussed the following issues:

- Could the machine come out to remove dog dirt on Cherry Crescent and Goodshaw Lane?
- Policy and charges for wheelie bins if a crime reference has been obtained.
- Why not all recyclable waste is accepted.
- Property at Tup Bridge lights next to the nail bar which is in a state of disrepair.
- Tree at Fall Barn “held up” by the bark.
- Debris around the inside lane of the roundabout near the Fire Station.

In response to questions from members of the public and Elected Members it was confirmed that:

- The dog dirt machine can be booked for problem areas by contacting the NEAT Team, alternatively the Town Centre Caretaker can come out. If fouling is done on a regular basis a diary can be kept and a witness statement form obtained from the NEAT Team to help with enforcement.
- A replacement bin is £21 regardless of the reason why it needs replacing. This was a policy decision made by Full Council.
- At present the only certain types of recyclable waste can be collected. Work is being undertaken on extending the types of recyclable waste collected, but at present it is a machinery issue.
- The property at Tup Bridge in disrepair is now subject to planning enforcement.

**It was agreed that:**

- The NEAT Team would look into sending the dog dirt machine to Cherry Crescent and Goodshaw Lane.
- A member of the NEAT Team would meet with the member of public with information about the tree at Fall Barn to do a site visit.
- The NEAT Team would arrange for the inside of the roundabout to be cleaned.

## **8. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS & FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS**

The Chair invited previous applicants to feed back on how they had spent their grants.

Rossendale Rubicon thanked the Forum for the grant and informed how the money had been spent so far. A Wii had been purchased and was contributing to activities to help people with mental health problems. The equipment was being used as part of a regular exercise programme. A weigh in session had been arranged and a diet club, also bowling experience. This had been followed up with a visit to a bowling alley for a real bowling experience. These were individuals who would normally be sat in a day care unit and would not normally get involved with anything like this. These experiences had been made possible through the forum grants.

Councillor Forshaw reported that work on the Bury Road project had not yet been able to start owing to loss of other funding. The issues would be taken forward with the Chief Executive and the Property Services Manager.

The Chair reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. 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
1969 (Rossendale) Sqn Air Training Corps	750.00	2 desktop computers and flight training software to be used as a training aid within the squadron, to help cadets achieve a BTEC in aviation studies.	Yes	750.00
Rossendale Civic Trust	750.00	EVAC Chair – to be able to admit disabled children to the Weavers Cottage.	Deferred – EVAC Chair will not facilitate admission only evacuation more confirmation required.	0.00
<b>Total Applied For</b>	<b>1500.00</b>		<b>Total Awarded</b>	<b>750.00</b>

Starting balance for 2008/2009 £7260.00  
 Funds allocated at this meeting £750.00  
 Remaining in budget £6510.00

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 on 01706 252422 or by

emailing [democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk). The deadline for the next round of grants would be 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and the next meeting would be on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**It was agreed that:**

- The grants as detailed above be awarded.

## **9. PROPOSED SITES FOT NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTICE BOARDS**

The Chair informed the Forum that there were three notice boards to be sited and asked members to agree locations for the three notice boards.

The members discussed notice boards in Rawtenstall, Loveclough, Waterfoot and Crawshawbooth, and agreed the three locations as Rawtenstall, Loveclough and Waterfoot.

The Rawtenstall notice board would be placed near the Jigsaw opposite the market. The location for the Loveclough notice board would be confirmed by Councillor Barnes, and the location of the Waterfoot notice board would be confirmed by Councillors Nuttall and Robertson.

**It was agreed that:**

- The three notice boards would be placed in Rawtenstall, Loveclough and Waterfoot.
- Councillor Barnes would confirm the exact location of the Loveclough notice board
- Councillors Nuttall and Robertson would confirm the exact location of the Waterfoot notice board.

## **10. OPEN FORUM**

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Holes on Burnley Road at the top of Goodshawfold Road that fill with water when it rains.
- Waste collection and the impact of increased fuel charges.
- Commercial Street was supposed to be resurfaced as part of the planning agreement when the new houses were built at the bottom.
- Children from below Major Street in Crawshawbooth were being refused places at Crawshawbooth School and sent to Rawtenstall as the school could not accommodate the number of children in the area owing to the amount of new houses being built.
- Blocked drain was reported behind Pickering and Molloy on Bank Street but has not been cleared.



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

- Waste collection routes were electronically mapped to reduce fuel costs.

**It was agreed that:**

- Ward Councillors would take forward the problems with the holes at the top of Goodshawfold Road.
- Jerry Smith to take forward road repair issues on Commercial Street with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the Chair would look into the planning agreement regarding the new houses at the bottom of the street.
- Forum Councillors to lobby LCC on the school places issues and Jerry Smith to also pursue with LCC.
- Jerry Smith to follow up gulley issue behind Pickering and Molloy on Bank Street.

**The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.00 pm**

Signed: .....  
(Chair)

Date: .....