

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

**Venue: Irwell Vale Methodist Church, Bowker Street,
Irwell Vale**

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2008

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

**ALSO PRESENT: Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
David Whiteman, Area Manager
Jerry Smith, Lancashire County Council
Simon Kitchin, Community Health Worker
Emy Aceret, Committee Officer
Caroline Brennan, Clerical Assistant
Bernard Mrozeck, Technical Director, Interfloor
Steve Chamberlain, Interfloor**

**Approximately 25 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.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Dickinson and Inspector David Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary.

3. Minutes

The Chair updated the meeting on the actions from the meeting held on 24th June 2008:

- There was a discussion relating to the signage and works on Grane Road. It was reported that works had not been completed because of the bad weather.
- It was reported that the signs for Chatterton Lane to warn road users of horses on the road had been created and were ready to be put up.

- There was a brief discussion on dog fouling at Greenfield Gardens, Stubbins, Chatterton and Rising Bridge. It was explained that bins for dog foul would be made available to those areas as well as Irwell Vale.
- The weeds around the trees at the back of the library need removing and the library fountain was in need of improvement. It was explained that the library would be refurbished. Jerry Smith was required to follow this up.
- Members noted that the sign at the junction of Helmshore Road and St Peter's Avenue was rusted and in a dangerous state and requested that it be replaced. It was agreed that Jerry Smith would find out who was responsible and arrange a replacement.
- It was explained that Stubbins Residents Association had received a grant to undertake planting works to improve the appearance of the roundabout at the top of Bolton Road North. Grass cutting at roundabouts remained a concern. The Committee asked the Chair of Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group to follow up and provide an update.

It was agreed:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2008 be accepted as a correct record.
- b) That the Action sheet be updated.
- c) That Jerry Smith be asked to provide update on those outstanding issues in the Action Sheet.
- d) That the Chair of Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group be asked to provide an update.

4. Police Update

The Chair reported on the crime statistics submitted by Inspector Hodson.

The Haslingden crime figures for the period 29.6.08 to 29.9.08 compared to the same period last year were as follows:

Crime Type	All Crime	Burglary in/around Dwelling	Vehicle Crime	Damage	Violent Crime	Hate Crime	Anti-Social Behaviour
29/06/08-29/09/08	289	4	48	65	57	3	300

Detected	94	0	4	19	30	0	n/a
29/06/07- 29/09/07	312	11	48	72	62	5	336
Detected	92	3	8	17	32	0	n/a
Reduced	-23	-7	0	-7	-5	-2	-36

The following showed an increase:

Crime Type	Stealing from Shops and Stalls (Shoplifting)	Burglary other than in a Dwelling (Sheds, Garages, Commercial Premises)	Robbery- Personal Property
29/06/08- 29/09/08	10	17	3
Detected	8	1	1
29/06/07- 29/09/07	8	12	1
Detected	7	0	0
Increased	2	5	2

The following issues were raised by Councillors and members of the public:

- Definition of Violent Crime
- Days and Times of Police Station Opening
- Reporting of Crime
- Concerns About Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Smith explained that it was important to report any crime and he provided a telephone number 0845 1253545 for the Police Call Centre at Burnley.

It was agreed:

- a) That a letter be sent to Inspector Dave Hodson outlining the queries raised at the meeting and inviting him to attend the next meeting to provide an update.

5. Area Manager Communities Update

The Area Manager explained that the Team had a new and wider focus, working closely with the Police, businesses, schools, voluntary groups, etc, and he provided information on the following:

- Available grants such as Grants for Environmental Action in Lancashire
- His contact number for members of the public to call about any issues in their neighbourhood
- Proposed switch-on date for the Christmas lights in Haslingden on the 25th November 2008 at 3.45pm.

There was a discussion relating to the following:

- Concerns about pot holes on the passage way at Holly Avenue leading up to Manchester Road, Haslingden
- Concerns about the site of bin collection at the rear of Holly Avenue
- Litter bins near the Fingerpost were missing on Blackburn Road

It was agreed:

- a) That the Area Manager's direct contact telephone number 01706 252536 be put on the Neighbourhood Notice boards.
- b) That the Area Manager be invited to the next meeting to provide updates on the issues raised.
- c) That the recommendations in the Christmas Lights report be agreed.

6. Introduction of Neighbourhood Health Worker

Simon Kitchin introduced himself as the Community Health Worker, employed by East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT), working closely with the Communities Team to tackle issues/services other than those services delivered by the Council. He reported that his remit was to provide PCT a baseline and put together an action plan to increase people's access to services. Simon can be contacted directly on telephone number 01706 252415.

The Community Health Worker explained that his role included:

- Working in deprived areas with community groups and individuals
- Addressing issues/services relating to drugs and family relationships, etc
- Identifying gaps in the services that the communities currently received

The Chair explained that some people might be getting letters from PCT via their General Practitioner, inviting them to complete a form to see if they are eligible for benefits or grants. The Chair urged them to complete this even if they think they are not entitled to anything.

It was agreed:

- a) That the Community Health Worker's contact number be put on the Neighbourhood Notice Boards.

7. Pride in Rossendale

The Deputy Chief Executive thanked the public for their attendance and provided an explanation on the new Pride in Rossendale project which was a new initiative launched by the Council to put the pride back into Rossendale. One of the aims of the project was about delivering environmental improvements to the neighbourhoods.

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that for 'Pride in Rossendale' to be a success, the Council needed to know what people think is important in their areas.

There was a discussion relating to the following:

- What the Council has already done in the last 6 months
- How does the Council engage with the public
- What can the community do to help the Council improve the Borough and achieve the objectives of the "Pride in Rossendale" project
- The things that matter to the community:
 - Grass cutting
 - High hedges and overhanging branches
 - Removing Pot Holes
 - Bins and collection of waste
 - Plants and flower displays
 - Memorial Gardens
 - Wind Turbine Farm

There was a discussion about some of the issues relating to grass cutting:

- lack of coordination of work undertaken by LCC, Highways, the Council and Greenvale Homes
- concerns about cuttings left on the lawns
- cost element of collecting cuttings
- ownership and responsibilities

The Chair of the Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group informed the meeting that their Group was set up to tackle those challenging issues.

It was agreed that:

- a) That the Chair of Grass Cutting Task and Finish Group be invited to provide updates at the next meeting.

8. INTERFLOOR

Bernard Mrozek, Technical Director of Interfloor gave an update on the current position. Since last summer, the machine was running better but there was still a bit of fine tuning to be done. The suppliers had made some changes on the programming which resulted in cleaner emissions.

The Chair referred to a previous problem which was now resolved. The Technical Director reported that Joanne Miller, Consultant, has not received any more complaints.

It was agreed:

- a) That Bernard Mrozek be invited back to the next meeting of the Forum to provide more information.

9. Highways Matter for discussion – Fields Road, Haslingden

Concerns about obstruction to vision and exiting Fields Road onto Manchester Road, Haslingden were raised.

It was agreed:

- a) That Jerry Smith will follow this up.

10. Determining of Grant Allocations and Feedback From Previous Recipients

Councillor Essex provided feedback from previous applicants including the 43rd Rossendale Scout Group, Free Lane Community Allotment Society and Edenfield Methodist Church. This was followed by a verbal update from the Secretary of the Stubbins Residents Association, who informed the Forum that Stubbins Residents Association had been nominated for an award for the Northwest in Bloom competition. The award ceremony would be held in Liverpool.

Three grant applications had been considered by the Working Group prior to the meeting and the Group were recommending the following:

Name of Organisation	Application Details	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
West View Community Centre	Purchase plans, have a Halloween party, Children's Christmas party.	£750	£500
Stubbins Residents Association	Continuation of the Wicker People theme, a more permanent 'Welcome to Stubbins ' sign and	£750	£500

	Christmas tree to be planted in the garden.		
Edenfield and District Community association	Buy and install a new modern efficient heater (Drugasar G8T gas fired convector heater with a balanced flue.	£750	£500

Further applications could be obtained from the Democratic Services Team on 01706 252424 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk. The deadline for receipt of applications for the next round was 22nd December 2008.

Funds allocated at this Forum = £1,500
This left £3,370.00 in the grants budget.

It was agreed:

That the grants be agreed.

11. Open forum

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- o Zebra crossing, Manchester Road
- o Central reservation in Edenfield needs replacing now windfarm development complete
- o Anti social behaviour in Greenfield Memorial Gardens
- o Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), their duties and powers
- o Grass cutting on steep banking and roundabouts
- o General concerns about anti-social behaviour
- o Request for a polling station to be reopened in Irwell Vale

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

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.15pm)

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: