

Notes of: BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Maden Centre

Date of Meeting 26th January 2009

Present: Councillor W Challinor (Chair)
Councillors Driver, Eaton, Haworth, Lamb. H Steen,
Linda Fisher, Executive Director, Business
Anne Storah, Senior Forward Planning Officer
Adrian Harding, Principal Planning Officer
Julie Jackson, Area Manager, Communities Team
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder, Finance and
Resources

Also Present: 20 members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked Councillors and Officers present to introduce themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors P Steen, Lynskey and County Councillor Serridge

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 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. It was agreed that those actions that were outstanding would be carried over to the next meeting so that an update could be given. These included

- Inclusion of zigzags on the next agenda of Lancashire Locals
- Issue of lorries turning on Farholme Lane – Officers are going to speak to the owners of the firm

- Uncut grass near youth shelter – Linda Fisher confirmed that a report would be presented to Lancashire County Council on all outstanding issues.
- No visible signs at narrowing section of Farholme Lane/Acre Mill Road/Cutler Crescent – The Chair confirmed that signage is being looked at throughout the Borough and hope to have improved arrangements with County – Linda Fisher agreed to take the issue forward

4. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Wilkinson provided an update on crime rates and policing in the area.

	October – December 2007	October – December 2008
Criminal Damage	77	76
Burglary Dwelling	36	10
Burglary Non-Dwelling	17	18
Vehicle Crime	33	37
Anti- Social Behaviour Incidents	295 incidents 2 crimes	254 incidents 4 crimes

The following information was also received.

- Cannabis farms closed down in Greensclough and Irwell Ward.
- Stay Safe Campaign - Twelve children picked up and taken to place of safety whilst parents arrived to pick them up
- Operation Pathway – funding had been provided by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for hand held speeding devices
- Three positive test purchasers

A number of questions were raised by the Members and the public as follows:-

- Concern for the elderly and the need for additional police presence near the Green
- 'Slow down' signs needed on Todmorden Road.
- Need for greater partnership working
- Costing for a SPiD device.

Inspector Wilkinson agreed to take up the issues.

5. ROAD CASUALTY FIGURES

Inspector Wilkinson presented the road casualty figures that had been circulated at the meeting. The Forum was pleased to note the decrease in casualties.

6. LEISURE CONSULTATION

The Executive Director - Business informed that Forum the Leisure Report presented to the Cabinet on 21 January was out for consultation so that a report could be presented to Full Council in February.

The Forum was informed of the dates of the three public engagement events, set up to enable the public to have their say on the options put forward.

The Executive Director - Business indicated to the Forum that the public would be able to put forward additional options which the Council had not considered and these would be looked at as part of the consultation.

A number of questions and statements were submitted as summarised below to which the Executive Director - Business responded.

- Discussion on a survey undertaken some time ago in relation to usage of Bacup Leisure Hall – further information would be sought.
- Taking away facilities when one of the Council's Priorities is Health and Well Being
- Why Bacup Leisure Hall is underused – need to get in touch with the youths of Bacup
- Lack of leisure facilities and therefore people are spending money outside of the Borough
- Heritage in Bacup is a key issue
- Need to include copies of the consultation paper at the Leisure Hall

8. AREA MANAGER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Julie Jackson, Area Manager - Communities Team, provided the Forum with a report on the work of the Team and an update on specific projects as summarised below:-

- Grot Spot competition. 396 Newchurch Road had been one of the sites to be tidied up in a recent competition, which would include re-flagging, painting of the fence, taking out existing planters.
- 90 new freestanding bins would be installed throughout the Borough to be completed by end February.

- Major consultation in Dale Street area which had received 45% responses
- Alley gating, solar lighting on the car park around Fern Street
- 'Talking Shop' event taking place 4 February between 10-5pm
- Investment in waste bins
- Neighbourhood Action Plans – a Member of the public asked for timescales on when they would be produced

7. AREA STRATEGY

The Senior Forward Planning Officer presented information on the Area Vision for Bacup, which was part of the Core Strategy which will guide development for the next 15-20years.

Copies of the Vision and questionnaire had been circulated at the meeting and the Council were asking for views and opinions on the Area Vision for Bacup to be returned to the Council by 9 February.

Alternatively, the questionnaire can be viewed and filled out electronically at www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy

The Area Vision for Stacksteads would be presented to the March Forum Meeting.

8. BUDGET CONSULTATION

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources presented information regarding the budget for 2009/10. He explained that the Council were seeking the views of the public and he provided an overview of the budget process as summarised below:-

- Outline of how the money is spent
- Achievements
- Future plans
- Current Costs
- Areas of Focus and Investment

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources responded to a number of questions raised by the public.

9. DETERMINING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Chair informed the Forum that the Council had received a thank you letter from Alf's Black Belt Academy following the purchase of kit for its members.

It was agreed that the following funds be allocated:-

£150 for Stacksteads Countryside Park Group towards the purchase of a gazebo.

£350 for Rossendale Rubicon towards the purchase of crown green bowls and other equipment.

The application from the Tunstead Pre School would be allocated once the Council had received estimates for their IT equipment and TV/DVD.

Starting balance from last meeting	£2390.00
Refund received	173.45
Funds allocated at this meeting	500.00
Remaining in budget	£2063.45

N.B. This balance does not take into account the funding to be rewarded to Tunstead Pre-School which will be agreed when estimates are received.

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

9. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following issues:-

- Public Transport between Bacup and Manchester – It was confirmed that only parts of the journey are producing any profits
- Pennine Square Initiative – It was agreed to ask for timescales
- Rail links between Rawtenstall and Manchester – It was confirmed that this had received a mention in the Multi Area Agreement and also the Greater Manchester Transport Plan.
- Park and Ride Service if the rail link is successful – Lancashire County Council are looking at some vacant sites but these will be option based.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 9.15pm

Signed: (Chair) _____

Date: _____