

Notes of: RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Longholme Methodist Church, Rawtenstall

Date of Meeting: 26th January 2009

**PRESENT: Councillor Graham (in the Chair)
Councillors A Barnes, Crawforth, Gill, Gledhill, May, Nuttall,
J Pilling and Robertson**

**ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant Stuart Greenwood, Lancashire Constabulary
CC Hazel Harding – Lancashire County Council (LCC)
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer – LCC
Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Stephen Stray, Planning Unit Manager
Caroline Ridge, Assistant Planner - Forward Planning
Gemma Rooke, Community Engagement Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Councillors Morris and C.Pilling

**Approximately 16 members of the public and 2
representatives of the press attended the meeting.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the public and asked the Elected Members to introduce themselves to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Forshaw, Swain and Unsworth.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

a) The notes of the meeting held on 7th October 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

b) Action sheet:

The action sheet was noted.

4. POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Greenwood updated the Forum on policing matters and crime statistics for the Rawtenstall area.

In response to queries raised at the previous Forum Sergeant Greenwood gave the following update:

- There had been 3 reported stone thefts in the Rossendale West area, these were in March, July and October.
- Insurance detection figures for 2008 were 978. These figures were for the full Pennine Division (Burnley, Nelson, Rossendale and Colne).
- The carpet shop had been contacted in relation to problems with parking on the pavement outside the shop. They would now be parking at the top of New Hall Hey Road.

Sergeant Greenwood informed the meeting that most crimes in the Rawtenstall area had reduced when compared with the same period last quarter as follows:

	All Crime	Burglary in/around Dwellings	Damage	Violent Crime	Hate Crime	Anti-Social Behaviour	Robbery – Business Property
29/09/08 – 01/01/09	325	11	59	69	4	305	0
Detected	74	0	15	28	0	n/a	0
29/09/07 – 01/01/08	333	19	83	82	4	345	2
Detected	128	9	28	50	0	n/a	0
Reduced By:	8	8	24	13	0	40	2

The following crimes had increased:

	Vehicle Crime	Stealing from Shops and Stalls (Shoplifting)	Burglary other than in a Dwelling	Robbery – Personal Property
29/09/08 – 01/01/09	37	31	23	2
Detected	2	14	2	0
29/09/07 – 01/01/08	29	3	21	0
Detected	2	3	5	0
Increased By:	8	28	2	2

Sergeant Greenwood informed the meeting that the anti social behaviour category covered a range of issues including abandoned vehicles, stray sheep, nuisance telephone calls and noise. Out of the 305 reported this quarter 136 of these related to street incidences.

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

- Number plate recognition figures for Rossendale
- Request for the circulation of crimes statistics prior to the meeting
- Vehicles marked 'For Sale' parked on the roadside
- Joint working
- Fixed penalties

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

- Crimes figures would be circulated prior to the meeting if possible.

Sergeant Greenwood informed the meeting that it was an offence under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act to have cars for sale on the roadside within 500m of each other. A fixed penalty could be issued or the vehicle seized. Joint working between the Police and the Council was an option on this issue.

5. ROAD CASUALTY FIGURES

The Road Casualty Figures were distributed with the agenda papers and were noted.

NB. Councillor Graham declared a personal and prejudicial interested in the Leisure item as her daughter was employed by Rossendale Leisure Trust. Phil Seddon chaired the meeting for the following item.

6. LEISURE

Councillor Gledhill the Cabinet Member for Leisure updated the meeting on the Leisure consultation. He informed that three public consultation meetings had been arranged between 3rd and 5th February as follows:

Tuesday 3rd February – Maden Centre, Bacup

Wednesday 4th February – Haslingden Community Link, Haslingden

Thursday 5th February – Kay Street Baptist Church, Rawtenstall

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

- Legal requirements and leases
- Leisure Trust finances and balance sheet
- Provision of swimming for children
- Comparison to provision in other areas
- Responses to the Leisure consultation
- Consultation end date

- Options available and new options
- Marl Pits
- Bus service to pools
- Putting services in same location e.g. leisure, bus station, train station
- Council commitment to Rossendale Leisure Trust
- The status of the Board?
- Look into management and financial services
- Business Plans achieved?
- Advantages of a trust
- How will the consultation be publicised? Is it on the radio?
- Scrutinising the Trust
- Increase in Council Tax
- Trust not just about pools and sport, look at whole remit
- Loss of other facilities and venues
- Lottery bid
- Insolvency and liability
- Companies Act and Provident Act
- Improving systems
- Leisure activities
- Costs of savings made and support given over the last 5 years

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

- The Monitoring Officer would be asked to clarify the position on the legal requirements of providing swimming for children to the member of public concerned.

Members of the public were asked to consider the leisure options available and respond to the consultation. Leaflets, option papers and response sheets were available at the meeting and were also available at the One Stop Shop and on the Council website at the following address:

http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=568&pageNumber=2

NB. Councillor Graham chaired the remaining items on the agenda.

7. AREA MANAGER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The Communities Manager introduced himself and gave an update on the Communities Team. Dave Whiteman had retired at the end of December and his efforts and contributions to the Neighbourhood Forums were noted.

The Communities Manager outlined the recent work undertaken by the team including the number of environmental service requests. As part of Pride in Rossendale 93 standing bins with logos would be allocated. Discussions were taking place on the location of the bins which would start to be installed early in February. Other works would include thinning of trees, replacing benches and general gardening works. The Grot Spot Competition received

13 entries, and the winners for action were: 396 Newchurch Road, Bacup, 586 Bury Road, Rawtenstall, Eagley Bank, Shawforth and Road Ends, Haslingden.

As a result of the issues raised about the emergency out of hours phone number at the State of the Borough Debate and the efforts of Councillor Smith, the number had changed and issues resolved.

Rossendale Council along with the other 11 Districts and Lancashire County Council have been shortlisted for Beacon Status for their joint work on building Cohesive and Resilient Communities

The Communities Manager introduced Gemma Rooke to the meeting as the new Community Engagement Officer. Gemma explained she was currently meeting people in the community and was interested to hear from community groups and charities. Gemma can provide information and advice to anyone considering setting up a new group. Gemma could also be contacted if any community group wanted to invite her to their meeting.

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

- Wording on new bins
- Stolen or vandalised wheelie bins
- Insurance responsibility once bin has been placed on the path ready for collection
- Policy on missing bins
- Reporting vandalism of bins or stolen individual bins
- Rawtenstall Market man hole partially blocked and filled with water
- Policy on recycling bins
- Clean-ups and central government funding
- Central island in Rawtenstall agreement needed on maintenance
- Coping stones coming off wall on Ormerod Street – in the Conservation Area
- Grass cutting schedule
- Insurance for groups doing clean-ups

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

- A copy of the grass cutting schedule be sent to members.
- The blocked manhole near Rawtenstall Market is looked into.
- A policy update on bins would be brought to the next Forum.

8. AREA STRATEGY FOR RAWTENSTALL

The Assistant Planner – Forward Planning delivered a presentation which outlined what an Area Strategy was, why it was needed and details of the Area Strategy for Rawtenstall. The presentation detailed the following:

- Local Development Framework and Local Development Strategy
- Core Strategy, why it is important, and what goes into it
- Regional issues
- Local issues
- Settlement hierarchy
- Area vision
- Specific issues for Rawtenstall
- Opportunities for Rawtenstall
- Further work on the Core Strategy
- Your views and how you can help

Consultations were taking place on the draft strategy before finalising the Core Strategy and questionnaires were available at the meeting and on the web site. Questionnaires needed to be returned by 9th February. In addition to this consultations would take place with community groups in the area.

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

- Location of houses
- Existing and previous planning permission in relation to building new houses
- What are percentages based on?
- Evidence base
- Size of the questionnaire
- Interim documents
- Crawshawbooth separate to Rawtenstall
- Visiting residents associations
- Colours used on the maps
- Communication with the community getting better
- Encourage people to participate

Information on the Area Strategy consultation would be available at the following web address: www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy Alternatively email corestrategy@rossendalebc.gov.uk or contact Caroline Ridge on 01706 238627.

9. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2009-2010

Phil Seddon, the Head of Finance 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
- Prioritisation

- Financial Planning
- Budget pressures
- Current Costs
- Efficiency Proposals
- Areas of Focus and Investment

The following was raised by an Elected Member:

- Any planned redundancies

10. DETERMINING OF GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The Chair reported that the Working Group had met to consider the applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding. The Working Group recommended the following:

Organisation Name	Funding Granted
Café Engage	£750.00
38 th Rossendale (Open) Scout Group	£500.00
St Paul's Church of England	£750.00
St Paul's Church of England	Deferred
Total funds granted	£2000.00

Starting balance for 2008/2009	£7260.00
Current balance as at January	£5410.00
Funds allocated at this meeting	£2000.00
Remaining in budget	£3410.00

Forms were available at the meeting and were also available from the Democratic Services Team on 01706 252424 or by emailing democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk. The deadline for the next round of grants would be 2nd March 2009 and the next meeting would be on 23rd March 2009.

11. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following:

- More forum sessions
- Sectional meetings for particular subjects

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: