

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

Venue: Edenfield Community Centre, Off Exchange Street, Edenfield BL0
0LA

Date of Meeting: 17th March 2009

PRESENT: Councillor G Sandiford (in the Chair)
Councillors A Cheetham, P Dickinson, B Essex, G Morris, C Pilling
and D Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: Julie Jackson, Area Manager, Communities Team
Jason Foster, Operations Manager
Jerry Smith, LCC District Partnership Officer - Rossendale
Adrian Harding, Principal Planning Officer
Caroline Ridge, Assistant Planner
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Emy Aceret, Committee Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Fraser Nash, Regeneration Project Manager, LCDL
PS Stuart Greenwood, Lancashire Constabulary
Bernard Mrozeck, Technical Director, Interfloor
Joanne Miller, Consultant

Approximately 30 members of the public 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 submitted on behalf of Councillor D Stansfield.

3. Minutes

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2009 be accepted as a correct record.
- b) The Action sheet was discussed and updates were noted.

The District Partnership Officer provided an update on the Action Sheet. He was asked to follow up the following issues and provide an update at the next Forum:

1) Motoring and speed checks at Grane Road

- the locations of the sites for safety cameras.
- the lay by being used for checks and the safety of drivers stopping at the lay by.

PS Greenwood explained that the site near the picnic area was not suitable for speed checks.

2) Sponsorship and Road markings, Woolpack roundabout

Several residents expressed their concerns about the new road markings and safety relating to the exit which then forks to either Helmshore or the A56 northbound.

3. Roundabout - top of Bolton Road North

Concerns were raised about the rubbish at the roundabout and a request for urgent action was made.

Other updates on the Action Sheet were as follows:

Zebra crossings and road markings on Manchester Road

The District Partnership Officer explained that Highways Agency needs the support of the public by letting them know about their concerns. The phone number to contact is **0845 053 0011**.

Textiles, batteries and bulbs collection

The Operations Manager explained that the Council did not provide a specific vehicle to collect textiles. Members of the public were asked to phone the Council to collect. The Operations Manager explained that there was no reason for textiles not being collected providing they were appropriately labelled.

In relation to the collection and disposal of batteries and light bulbs, the following were discussed:

- Recycling sites.
- Schools taking batteries through their own waste disposal programmes.
- Manufacturers' and suppliers' responsibility for the disposal of electrical goods such as televisions.
- Supermarkets providing a disposal box for batteries and bulbs.
- Supermarkets' contribution to Lancashire County Council (LCC) to provide disposal facilities.
- Costs implications and Council's budget.
- Use of energy saving bulbs.
- Travel costs and carbon footprints.

- Rossendale Borough Council was a collecting authority; LCC was responsible to dispose waste.

Dog fouling

Members of the public and Elected Members discussed the following:

- Only one Dog Warden for the Borough.
- Poop Scooper.
- Signs warning dog owners.
- Dog owners moved away and dog fouling problem disappeared.
- Enforcement:
 - Area Officers and Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) were trained to issue fines.
 - PCSOs were on duty till 10pm.
 - Providing a member of the public made a statement, PCSOs could issue fines.

It was agreed that those actions that were outstanding would be carried over to the next meeting and the Action Sheet would be updated.

4. Update on INTERFLOOR

The Consultant explained that only one complaint had been received since January 2009 which was due to the bad weather; an ongoing monitoring approach was in place.

Interfloor's Director informed the Forum that they were continuing to work with the suppliers to eradicate the remaining problem.

The Forum agreed that Interfloor's efforts and cooperation be acknowledged, and wished them well for the future. The Chair explained that there was no need for the Director to report back at future meetings.

5. Police Update

PS Greenwood provided an update on policing in the area and informed the Forum that there would be a lot of Police activities on 26th March 2009. He discussed some of the initiatives being undertaken in the Borough to reduce crimes. He encouraged the Forum to work closely with the Council's Community Engagement Officer. PS Greenwood distributed Street Ambassador Scheme leaflets for public information and encouraged participation.

PS Greenwood provided an update on crime rates and explained that there had been a reduction on some crimes for the same period in the previous year which were as follows:

Crime Type	All Crime	Vehicle Crime	Damage	Violent Crime	Burglary other than in a Dwelling	Anti-Social Behaviour
01/01/09 - 16/03/09	212	20	41	45	21	242
Detected	48	1	7	17	0	126
01/01/08 - 16/03/08	269	39	62	47	13	324
Detected	81	9	13	28	2	184
Decrease	57	19	21	2	8	82

PS Greenwood informed the Forum that the Police had a database which they used to monitor anti-social behaviour incidents.

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

- Young people having no place to go.
- Young people hanging around at the parks.
- Calls to report incidents being routed to Rochdale/Manchester.

6. Credit Crunch

The Senior Regeneration Project Manager, Lancashire County Developments Ltd presented an outline of available support to startup/existing businesses and individuals. The following were outlined:

- Support to Businesses.
- Business Start up Grants.
- Business Start up Programme.
- Get Set Business Start Up Programme.
- Pennine Enterprise Loan Initiative.
- Credit Crunch Business Support.
- Additional Business Support.
- Support to Individuals.
- Provision of a Court Desk.
- The Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

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

- Who to contact for support - Phone the One Stop Shop, Lancashire County Council or the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).
- Money Advice was already in place at the CAB.
- Libraries and Community Centres having the contact number for the CAB.

- Leaflets to inform the public about credit crunch support would be produced and made available at libraries and the CAB.
- Support was not just for start up businesses but also for existing businesses, such as workshops and conferences.

7. Area Strategy for Haslingden and Rising Bridge

The Forward Planning Assistant Planner gave an introduction and outlined presentation on:

- Why are we here tonight?
- What is the Core Strategy?
- Why is the Core Strategy important?
- What are the issues?
- Further Work on the Core Strategy
- How you can help

The Principal Planning Officer presented information on the Area Vision for Haslingden and Rising Bridge, which was part of the Core Strategy and would guide development for the next 15-20 years.

The Principal Planning Officer presented the following key issues:

- Number of hot food takeaways in retail centres
- Decline of Haslingden Town Centre retail/service function
- Lack of pedestrianised shopping area in Haslingden
- Lack of local points for the community
- Poor housing stock – or two extremes
- Under-used and vacant employment land and buildings

Copies of the Area Vision had been circulated at the meeting and the Council were asking for views and opinions on the Haslingden and Rising Bridge Area Vision to be returned to the Council by 31st March 2009.

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

8. Area Strategy for South-West Rossendale

The Forward Planning Assistant Planner gave a presentation, which outlined what an Area Strategy was, why it was needed and details of the Area Strategy for South-West Rossendale (Helmshore, Edenfield, Irwell Vale and Lumb, Ewood Bridge and Stubbins). The presentation outlined the following key issues:

- Green belt constraints
- Development pressures

- Access and infrastructure
- Flood risk
- Increasing visitor traffic

Consultations were taking place on the draft strategy before finalising the Core Strategy. Members of the public and Elected Members discussed the following issues:

- Building development plans.
- Building control and safety.
- Coloured maps with street names or name of the areas.
- Evidence base.
- Size of the questionnaire.
- Interim documents.
- Parking outside their homes.
- Colours used on the maps.
- 10 year moratorium.
- Encouraging people to participate.

Questionnaires needed to be returned by 31st March. Consultations would also take place with community groups in the area.

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. Neighbourhood Forum Refresh

The Communities Manager gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Forums which provided an outline on revitalising the Forums. His presentation outlined the following:

- Getting closer to communities
- Measuring how Rossendale is performing
- Why focus on improving links with the community
- Common "Vision"
- Recognise this Neighbourhood?
- Next generation Neighbourhood Forum?
- Fine "But what does that mean to me as a resident"?
- Making it work
- Time scale

Members of the public raised the following:

- Neighbourhood Forum information being made available.
- Expression of involvement.

10. Area Manager Communities Update

There were no questions raised on this item.

11. Determining of Grant Allocations and Feedback From Previous Recipients

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

Name of Organisation	Amount Awarded
Edenfield Village Residents Association	£ 410.00
Pram/Toddler Club	£ 368.00
Friends of Greenfield (Junior Bowling)	£ 637.00
Stubbins Residents Association	£ 250.00
Total given	£ 1,665.00

Balance from last meeting - £ 1,670.00
 Funds allocated at this Forum - £ 1,665.00
 Balance carried forward to next meeting - £5.00

It was agreed that the grants as detailed above be awarded.

Recipients of previous grants provided a brief updates on their projects and thanked the Forum for the funds they had received.

12. Open forum

The following issues were raised:

- Upkeep and maintenance of Springfield Gardens.
- Dog fouling at Springfield Gardens.

The Area Manager was asked to follow up and provide update at the next meeting.

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

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.30pm)

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: