

Notes of: RAWTENSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Horse and Bamboo Theatre, Bacup Road, Waterfoot

Date of Meeting: 23rd March 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Swain (in the Chair)
Councillors A Barnes, Crawforth, Farrington, Forshaw, Gill, Gledhill, Graham, Nuttall, J Pilling, Robertson and Unsworth

ALSO PRESENT: Inspector Hodson, Lancashire Constabulary
CC Hazel Harding – Lancashire County Council (LCC)
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer – LCC
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
David Presto, Economic Development and External Funding Officer
Claire Angus, Area Officer
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer

Approximately 11 members of the public and 1 representative of the press attended the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor May.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

a) The notes of the meeting held on 26th January 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

b) Action sheet:

Updates were given on actions from previous meetings.

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

- An update on repairs concerning the coping stones on Ormerod St would be given.
- The ownership of Lord Street and the issue of the road only being tarmaced half way be revisited.

- A list of organisations who had not provided receipts after being awarded funding from the Forum would be sent to the Working Group.

4. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Hodson updated the Forum on Police matters and crime statistics for Rossendale West. Partnerships were working well and over the last 4 years crime figures had reduced.

Inspector Hodson informed the meeting that most crimes in the Rawtenstall area had reduced when compared with the same period last year as follows:

	All Crime	Burglary in/around Dwellings	Vehicle Crime	Damage	Violent Crime	Anti-Social Behaviour	Burglary other than in a Dwelling	Robbery – Business Property
01/01/09 – 16/03/09	225	16	21	42	49	261	24	0
Detected	48	2	1	15	16	156	2	0
01/01/08 – 16/03/08	286	19	32	68	57	375	30	2
Detected	104	5	2	15	38	228	4	0
Reduced By:	61	3	11	26	8	114	6	2

The following crimes had increased:

	Hate Crime	Stealing from Shops and Stalls (Shoplifting)	Robbery – Personal Property
01/01/09 – 16/03/09	2	25	2
Detected	0	15	1
01/01/08 – 16/03/08	1	21	0
Detected	0	16	0
Increased By:	1	4	2

Inspector Hodson informed the Forum of initiatives currently taking place or planned over the next few months. He also reported that overall Rossendale West had seen a 15% reduction in crime over the last year.

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

- Speeding traffic on Haslingden Old Road.
- The use of speed guns and mobile speed units.
- Children’s Homes, crime rates and planning permission.
- Partnership working with Children’s Homes, residents and the Police.
- The new Waterfoot Police Station and parking.

- Opening times of stations.
- Parking issues and Parkwise.
- Wagons backing out onto main roads.
- CCTV on Bank Street.
- The status of the Riverside Car Park.

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

- The issue with speeding on Haslingden Old Road would be taken up directly with the member of public.
- Inspector Hodson would try to introduce the new Community Beat Officer at the next meeting.

5. CREDIT CRUNCH

David Presto, the Economic Development and Senior Funding Manager presented an outline of available support to startup and 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:

- Business plans and the difference between the grant and loan scheme.
- Benefits and risks.
- Assistance package and available support.
- Considering paying business rates over 12 months rather than 10.
- Details of the mortgage scheme.

In response to a question from an Elected Member it was agreed that:

- A list of contacts and organisations in the Borough would be sent directly to Councillor Nuttall.

6. POLICY UPDATE ON BINS

Councillor Swain noted that an update had been circulated at the Forum regarding the current position in relation to replacing green bins. The information was in response to a query being raised at the previous 2 meetings and clarified the policy position at the present time. He also informed the Forum that each case would be looked into on its own merits and circumstances.

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

- Damaged/stolen bins at the roadside collection point.
- People with more than one bin.
- House insurance which does not cover wheelie bins.
- Numbers of bins being replaced, charged for or stolen.
- Policies of other councils.
- Ownership of bins.
- System of appeal.
- Free recycle bins.
- Fly tipping.

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

- Information on numbers of bins replaced and numbers stolen would be obtained along with confirmation on ownership of bins.

7. AREA MANAGER COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The Area Officer introduced herself and gave an update on the Communities Team activities.

The Area Officer outlined the recent work undertaken by the team including the allocation of 90 litter bins as part of the Pride in Rossendale initiative. She also informed the Forum that a Pride in Rossendale postcard had been circulated and invited members of the public to send in their ideas on improving the area.

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

- Waste collection vehicles and a Waste Transfer Station.
- Funding to acquire land and build a Waste Transfer Station.
- Planning permission for a Waste Transfer Station.
- Functions at Henrietta Street.
- Who to speak to about Waste Transfer.

8. 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
Crawshawbooth Youth & Community Building Association	£450.00
Rawtenstall Public Welfare Organisation	£500.00
CRAG Ltd	£500.00
Edgeside and District Residents Association	£500.00
Dunrhythm "Jazz"	Nil
Monday Club (Over Fifties)	£500.00
Lumb-in-Rossendale Women's Institute	£250.00
Total funds granted	£2700.00

Starting balance for 2008/2009	£7260.00
Current balance as at March	£3410.00
Funds allocated at this meeting	£2700.00
Remaining in budget	£710.00

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.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS REFRESH

The Communities Manager gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Forums which provided an outline on revitalising the Forums. His presentation detailed 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 and Elected Members discussed the following issues:

- Replication of Lancashire Local?
- Getting the public involved.
- Too many separate meetings and working in partnership.
- Unemployment initiatives.
- Better interaction and communication.
- Same people attend with the same complaints so change is needed.
- Attending community group meetings.
- People giving up their time to attend meetings.
- Day and time of meetings.
- One item agendas or main topics for discussion.
- Regeneration area in the Centre of Waterfoot.
- Prompt responses to queries raised.
- Informing people of meetings.
- Forward planning and looking at bigger issues.

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

- An update on the regeneration area in Waterfoot would be given directly to the member of public.

10. OPEN FORUM

A member of the public raised a question concerning the collapsed wall at Cornmill Lane. In response to questions it was agreed that the query would be considered and a response issued directly to the member of public.

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.00 pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: