

Notes of: BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Acre Mill Baptist Church, Hammond Avenue, Stacksteads, Bacup

Date of Meeting 23rd March 2009

**Present: Councillor W Challinor (Chair)
Councillors Eaton and Lamb
County Councillor Serridge, Lancashire County Council
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Dave McChesney, Area Officer - Communities Team
Bill Mercer, Regeneration Project Manager
Emy Aceret, Committee Officer**

**In Attendance: Paul Hartley, Project Officer, Mid-Pennine Arts
Inspector Neil Wilkinson, Lancashire Constabulary**

**Also Present: 9 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 on behalf of Councillors Driver, Haworth, H Steen and P Steen.

3. Minutes

- a) The notes of the meeting held on 26th January 2009 be accepted as a correct record.
- b) The Action Sheet was discussed and updates were given on actions from previous meetings.

In relation to large vehicles going up Farm Lane and Newchurch Road, the following were discussed:

- o Continental drivers not being familiar with the roads.
- o Narrow bends.
- o Automated flashing slow down signs.

It was agreed that the Police would:

- o undertake further speeding checks at Todmorden Road within the next three months,

- repeat the monitoring work already carried out - provide Police presence near the Green,
- investigate the installation of an automated flashing slow down sign and,
- provide update at the next Forum.

4. POLICE UPDATE

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

	January - March 2008	January - March 2009
Burglary	8	28
Anti- Social Behaviour	242	263
Vehicle Crime	11	24
Criminal Damage	28	22

Inspector Wilkinson explained their “Policing Pledge” to reduce crimes and he encouraged the public to report any crime; their communication staff were all trained to deal with public concerns. The Forum acknowledged excellent response to crimes being reported.

In response to issues raised by members of the public and Elected Members, Inspector Wilkinson explained that:

- Police staffing in the area would remain the same and if a Police Community Support Officers moved on, they would recruit a replacement.
- The need to re-direct resources where it was required.
- Horse drawn carriages on the roads were not illegal – no MOT or insurance certificates were required.

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

5. Neighbourhood Forums Refresh

The Communities Manager gave a presentation which outlined future proposals for the Neighbourhood Forums, currently being considered by the Council.

The following were discussed by members of the public and Elected Members:

- Tonight’s Forum being the last of its type.
- Date of the next meeting.

- Frequency of the meetings.
- Public attendance and their personal reasons for attending.
- Importance of keeping in contact with the local people.
- Budget to spend.
- Potential merging of Bacup and Whitworth Forums.

The Communities Manager explained the importance of a consultation and a Neighbourhood Plan for Bacup. It was agreed that all views and concerns would be taken on board before any final decisions were made.

6. Credit Crunch

The Regeneration Project Officer delivered a presentation to the Forum which outlined the available support to startup/existing businesses and individuals in the Borough.

No questions were asked in respect of the actual content of the presentation but members of the public and Elected Members provided positive feedback.

7. Talking Shop Project

The Project Officer explained that this project was funded by ELEVATE, which was designed to raise awareness that independent shops were the heart and soul of a community, helping to sustain and celebrate the role of the shopkeeper.

8. Area Manager Communities Update

The Area Officer provided the Forum with an update on activities since the last meeting as follows:

- 90 new litterbins were due to be installed within the next few weeks
- 20 litterbins for Bacup area (13 additional and 7 replacement)
- 4 litterbins for Stacksteads (1 additional and 3 replacements)

9. DETERMINING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Chair informed the Forum that the Council received a thank you letter from the Rossendale Rubicon following the purchase of the bowling equipment which would enable six of their members to become involved in sporting activities designed to enhance their quality of life, fitness and social inclusion.

The Chair recommended the following applications for Neighbourhood Forum funding:

Name of Organisation	Amount Awarded
Stacksteads Countryside Park Group	£ 182.50
Bacup Consortium Trust	£ 750.00
Acre Mill Baptist Church	£ 200.00
Stacksteads Countryside Park Group/The Rossendale Rubicon	£ 170.00
Total given	£ 1,302.50

Balance from last meeting - £ 1,313.45
Funds allocated at this Forum - £ 1,302.50.00
Balance carried forward to next meeting - £10.95

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

11. OPEN FORUM

In relation to the Community Events Grant, the Forum discussed the need to engage with various groups to generate ideas and develop a plan for any events so that they could consider making applications for a grant.

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Derelict houses – It was agreed that the public should inform the Area Officer.
- Empty old chemists and flower shop on Newchurch Road, Stacksteads – The Area Officer agreed to visit and look into whether the old chemist and flower shop were suitable for taking action under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1992. He would look into ownership and take action if appropriate.
- Parking on Newchurch Road – The County Councillor (LCC) was asked to investigate ways to improve parking.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the closure of the local press offices.
- Pennine Lancashire Transport and links to surrounding areas.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and finished at 9.05pm

Signed: (Chair) _____

Date: _____