

Notes of: HASLINGDEN, EDENFIELD AND HELMSHORE
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Venue: Haslingden High School, Sixth Form Centre, Broadway, Haslingden

Date of Meeting: 18th June 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (in the Chair)
Councillors Cheetham, Essex, Evans, Milling, Morris, Smith,
Stansfield and Thorne.

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine Taylor, Area Manager, Communities Team
Alison Wilkins, Area Manager, Communities Team
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: PS Stuart Greenwood, Lancashire Constabulary
PCSO Allyson Ratcliffe, Lancashire Constabulary
Susan Wilson, LINKs Officer

Approximately 11 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 Councillors Dickinson and Pilling.

3. Minutes

a) The notes of the meeting held on 17th March 2009 were approved subject to the following changes:

The dates on the second set of crime figures be changed to 01/01/08 – 16/03/08

b) The Action sheet was discussed and the following updates were noted:

Collapsing Flower Bed at Finger Post – the sunken flower bed had been planted up as part of the Pride in Rossendale initiative and the matter would be reviewed when further subsidence had stopped.

Grants – all awarded grants were transferred to applicants following the March Forum.

Sparrow Gardens – an update on the maintenance of Sparrow Gardens was given and Councillor Cheetham agreed to liaise with the Area Manager regarding a possible site for a Pride in Rossendale initiative.

Dog fouling on swathe of grass Bolton Road North – Councillor Smith was meeting with the Assistant Operational Manager (Parks and Open Spaces) with a view to breaking up the grass and installing a wild flower bed to alleviate dog fouling problems.

The District Partnership Officer was asked to follow up the following issues and provide an update at the next Forum:

1) Pot Holes at Holly Avenue - LCC Highways were awaiting a response from the Legal Section.

2) Roundabout - top of Bolton Road North - concerns were raised about the overgrown roundabout and safety issues, and a request for urgent action was made. There was also a query concerning sponsorship money for roundabout advertisements and how this money was being used.

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

4. Local Involvement Network (LINKs)

Susan Wilson, the LINKs Community Engagement Officer gave a presentation on Local Involvement Networks. LINKs was a government initiative to give community groups, organisations and members of the public a stronger voice on Health and Social Care issues. Leaflets on how to get involved had been placed on display in Libraries, and events in Libraries and Mobile Libraries were being organised. Leaflets were circulated at the meeting and were available from the Committee Officer.

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

- Statutory powers
- How information and newsletters were being circulated
- Where the LINKs Officer was based
- Promoting events and using radio to do promotion, or using the Council website

5. Police Update

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	Hate Crime	Anti-Social Behaviour
16/03/09 - 16/06/09	309	38	50	58	5	366
Detected	89	3	11	27	0	
16/03/08 - 16/06/08	331	46	91	65	6	541
Detected	116	16	16	37	3	
Decrease	22	8	41	7	1	175

PS Greenwood and PCSO Ratcliffe provided an update on policing in the area and discussed some of the initiatives being undertaken in the Borough to reduce crimes. These included residents meetings to help prevent sneak-ins, working with the community to help prevent anti-social behaviour, number plate recognition exercises, speed enforcement, underage drinking campaigns and activity/sport initiatives with young people.

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

- Using the County Rider service for resident events
- Maintaining pressure on cases of anti-social behaviour
- Advice and contact numbers
- Incident of bogus caller on Rising Bridge Road
- Allocation of crime numbers
- Numbers of escaped sheep affecting anti-social behaviour figures
- Incident at Nangreaves and feedback following incidents
- Issuing fixed penalties
- 999 calls going astray in rural areas
- Number plate recognition in all police cars?
- Speed problems on Rising Bridge Road, Hud Hey Road, Burnley Road in Edenfield and Moorland View
- Speed limit on Burnley Road, Edenfield
- Including additional activities such as cricket
- Working with the Countryside Trust and Leisure Trust
- Thanks for the pro-active approach

In response to questions from members of the public and Elected Members PS Greenwood agreed to:

- Liaise with the member of public who reported a crime on someone else's behalf and look into the allocation of the crime number

The Chair thanked the Police for their hard work and the many community initiatives being undertaken to reduce crime.

6. Area Manager Communities Update

Catherine Taylor, the Area Manager for Haslingden, Helmshore and Edenfield introduced herself to the meeting and gave the Communities Update. Simon Whiteside and Andrea Goodall were the Area Officers for the area and would deal with neighbourhood issues. The Pride in Rossendale funding had resulted in 90 litter bins in the Borough and the team were now looking at reviewing park bins and lamp post bins, and replacing and installing new benches. Educational visits were taking place in schools as well as litter picks.

The Area Manager notified the Forum that funding was available for community initiatives. A form was available to complete which was also on the website, and Area Officers would be available to give advice and support. An update on the nature of future Neighbourhood Forums was also given. The Communities Team were seeking nominations for community representatives wanting to be involved in the meetings and a form was distributed at the meeting and details would be posted on the notice boards.

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

- Gateway sign in Irwell Vale
- Empty plant troughs in Haslingden and painting railings black
- Recycled plastic planters
- 3 tier planters for Deardengate where trees were vandalised
- Rising Bridge notice board would be fitted next month
- Helmshore needed a notice board
- Letters of thanks and appreciation to be sent to people who help in the community
- Stubbins in Bloom judgement 29th July
- New format of Neighbourhood Forums
- Need to ensure all housing associations represented
- Public attendance and participation at future Forums
- Different nature of neighbourhood areas
- Wider participation from other organisations such as LCC, Police, NHS, etc
- Length of future Forum meetings
- Getting proportions of representatives right

- Public transport and access to Forums

The Area Managers clarified that the aim of the Forums was to give community groups a greater role and widen the membership to look at priority issues in the area.

In response to questions from members of the public and Elected Members the Area Manager agreed to:

- Look into the issue of empty plant troughs in Haslingden
- Look into the request for a notice board at Helmshore
- Look into what funding would be available through Pride in Rossendale for a further role out of notice boards

7. Determining of Grant Allocations and feedback from previous recipients

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

Forum Grants	
Name of Organisation	Amount Awarded
Cotton Shed	Refused
Edenfield and District Residents Association	£ 750.00
Irwell Vale and Lumb Residents Association	£ 750.00 (grant approved in principle subject to the submission of a breakdown of costs)
Toddler and Pram Club	£ 175.00
Total given	£ 1,675.00

Balance carried over from 2008/2009 - £ 5.00

Funds for 2009/2010 - £6220.00

Total funds available - £6225.00

Funds allocated at this Forum - £ 1,675.00

Balance carried forward to next meeting - £4550.00

Events Grants	
Name of Organisation	Amount Awarded
Haslingden and Helmshore Silver Band	£750.00
Total given	£750.00

Starting Funds - £ 6220.00

Funds allocated at this Forum - £ 750.00

Balance carried forward to next meeting - £5470.00

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

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

8. Open Forum

The following issues were raised:

- Traffic problems at school closing time on the zebra crossing on Broadway and traffic backing up to the Tesco roundabout

The issues would be sent to LCC Highways through the District Partnership Officer.

The Chair invited details of local residents to be sent to the Committee Officer for those who have been seen to make a difference in the community. It was agreed that letters of thank would be sent to them for their valuable contributions in the community.

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: