

**Notes of: HASLINGDEN AREA FORUM
(including Edenfield and Helmshore)**

Venue: Haslingden High School

Date of Meeting: 15th December 2005

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)
Councillors Nicholass and Starkey**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Robertson, Community Sergeant
Stephen Pimlott, Forward Planning Officer
David Whiteman,
Heather Moore, Executive Office Manager
2 Members of the Public and 1 Representative of the Press**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 Councillor Ruddick chaired the meeting and welcomed members of the public. He introduced the elected members, officers and the police representative who were present at the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, J Pawson, S. Pawson, Sandiford and Thorne.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 3.1 The notes of the meeting held on 7th September had been distributed with the agenda and were agreed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Sergeant Robertson informed the meeting that P.C. David Lomas was fully recovered and back on the beat in Haslingden. In respect of the Memorial Park there was an increased Police presence resulting in reduced criminal activity in the area.
- 3.4 David Whiteman reported that a survey of litter bins would be undertaken to ensure corporate standards were adopted across the borough.

4. POLICE ISSUES

- 4.1 Sergeant Robertson reported on policing issues and gave details of activity since the last meeting.

- 4.2 She reported on a number of positive results in respect of reported drug activity. She highlighted that evidence was gathered through the local community in order to execute warrants to reduce such activity.
- 4.3 She gave details of Operation Furnace to combat anti-social behaviour issues and to support vulnerable properties. She further reported on the issuing of immediate fixed penalties (Penalty Notice Disorders) in order to reduce crime and disorder.

5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CONSULTATION ON THE CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT

- 5.1 Stephen Pimlott, Planning Officer gave a presentation to the Forum on the Issues and Options report on the Core strategy for the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Rossendale. He informed the meeting that the LDF was a portfolio of documents setting out the future developments on the whole of the Borough. He referred to the Core Strategy which was one of the key documents which set at the strategic policies in the Council's planning framework.
- 5.3 A copy of the Issues and Options report was circulated for discussion at the forum. Stephen Pimlott pointed out that the Council had not made any decisions on its preferred options and following the consultation a further report would be prepared setting out the preferred options for the Core Strategy. A further opportunity would then be afforded for consultation.
- 5.4 He pointed out that the consultation period in respect of the Issues and Options report circulated was until 6th January 2006 and he encouraged the Forum to view the documents on the website and submit comments, observations or responses accordingly.
- 5.5 A member of the public referred to the numbering in the document, specifically the reference to the policy in 7.4 and Stephen Pimlott agreed to check the referencing and make amendments where necessary.

6. STREET SCENE AND LIVEABILITY – NEAT TEAMS

- 6.1 David Whiteman reported on the role of the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams (NEAT) which dealt with issues involving graffiti, parks, fly-tipping and missed bins.
- 6.2 He outlined proposals for improved enforcement activity and highlighted that plans were being developed to introduce fixed penalty systems.
- 6.3 He informed the meeting that NEAT team officers were engaged in improving customer services by championing and influencing issues which the Council were not directly responsible for providing.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7.1 A member of the public raised concerns in respect of discrepancies in signage on Grane Road, Haslingden. Councillor Ruddick highlighted that the matter was a County Council Issue but the Council would champion the concerns raised at the meeting and take them up with the County Council.

County Council

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 7.40 pm)