

**Rawtenstall Neighbourhood Forum**  
**Notes from meeting held 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.**

**Present:** Cllr Colin Crawforth (Chair), Tamzin Percival (RBC) Cllr Liz McInnes, Cllr Dorothy Farrington, Kathy Fishwick (Rossendale Civic Trust), Martin Howlett (Waterfoot Forward), June Worsley (Rossendale Revival and Rossendale Tourism and Heritage Group), Liz Mutch (Rossendale Revival and Hall Carr Residents), Cllr Peter Roberts, Sgt Michael McBain, Caroline Collins (Real), Jill Bevan (Edgeside and District Community Partnership), Cllr Christine Gill, Cllr Amanda Robertson, Cllr Tony Winder, Cllr Jim Pilling, Cllr Patrick Marriot, Cllr Knowles, Miladur Rahman (Positive Start), Salif Islam (Positive Start), Leonard Entwistle, Mark Stapleton (Waterfoot Forward), Barry Steward (Waterfoot Forward), Shaju Ahmed (Positive Start), Julia Norris, Matt Norris, M Buckley, June Edgar, Garry Buckley, Vicky Livesey (Health improvement Officer), Bill Mercer (RBC).

**Apologies:** Cllr Alyson Barnes, Chris and Camden Blomerley (Civic Pride), Cllr Tim Nuttall, Nusrat Karim (Asian Women's Network), Trisha Gheirat, Andrea Fletcher, Martin Kay (Leisure Trust), Sue Harvey, Frances Clarke, Caroline Bleakley,

**Welcome:** Cllr Colin Crawforth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Previous minutes:** The notes from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were accepted as a correct record.

**Presentations:** 2 Presentations on the agenda

Kathy Fishwick of the Civic Trust gave a presentation about coordinated actions involving Civic Trust nationally, the Police and other organisations to tackle Heritage Crimes, including metal theft and other material theft and damage to heritage assets. Further information available from Kathy Fishwick, contactable at Rossendale Civic Trust.

In response Cllr Winder thanked Kathy Fishwick for the presentation, and he also called for more stringent punishment for those prosecuted for such crimes.

Cllr Knowles asked if Operation Tornado- Police led operation looking at illegal transferring of waste and metal theft- is implemented in Rossendale, Sgt McBain confirmed that operations are being conducted in Rossendale.

Positive Start enquired whether funding was available from statutory bodies to help with the costs of maintaining and renovating listed buildings- KF informed that there was no funding available from RBC or English Heritage.

The other presentation was due from Inspire to discuss the new facility at Waterfoot. Unfortunately no representatives from Inspire were at the Forum. Many Waterfoot residents attended the Forum to hear this presentation, and they expressed their concerns at the lack of consultations and requested further information about Inspire's plans.

**Local Updates:** A local update was given by the following individuals:

**June Worsley** on behalf of **Rossendale Revival**, information was given about a recent tourism meeting where signage, tourism website and tourism information network were discussed. There is also a proposal to have a Temperance Museum upstairs at Fitzpatrick's Temperance Bar on Bank Street.

**Mr. Hodgkinson** of **Green Vale Homes**, updated the Forum on the issues surrounding digital exclusion- housing associations have a responsibility to help social housing tenants get internet access- this is important due to the increasing move by government agencies to using online forms for benefits and other important information.

Green Vale Homes are identifying households without internet access and they will provide web access and laptop for 6 month period. Families who then keep the internet access and fund it themselves will be gifted the laptop to encourage them to continue using the internet once the scheme has finished. Mr. Hodgkinson asked the Forum if anyone could suggest groups or organisations that might help with IT training for residents who request it. C. Blomerley suggested that David Archer at BRGS might help with training as part of the sixth form community projects.

**Caroline Collins** of **REAL** informed the Forum about the Community Organisers; 5 posts will be created, 2 of which in the Rawtenstall Forum Area. The posts are focused on community development.

The over 50's Forum reformed, with £1100 available for projects aimed at the over 50's. REAL's website was down at the time of the meeting due to it being redeveloped, finally REAL will start to do the 'who's who' section in the Rossendale Free Press.

**Liz Mutch** of **Rossendale Revival** updated the Forum on the Historia Project- which is a cross generational heritage funded project about the 2 Astoria's in Rawtenstall. The project will culminate in a dance event at the new open space at the Valley Centre in October. Liz mentioned that any groups who would benefit from training in film making, should contact Rossendale Revival as there might be an opportunity to get some help via this project.

**Bill Mercer, Regeneration Officer** with **RBC**, informed the Forum that; in-partnership with LCC, tourism signage in Rossendale is being re-evaluated, this will include new signage and removing old outdated signs, this will only apply to Council owned attractions such as Whitaker Park Museum and Lee Quarry. Privately owned attractions who would want brown tourism signs, will need to contact LCC to purchase signs.

**Sgt Michael McBain** from the **Neighbourhood Policing Team** updated the Forum on the latest policing statistics. Last quarter's crime figures were up from 225 in 2011 to 226 in 2012, this does not include the Waterfoot area of the Forum. Anti Social behaviour has dropped from approximately 300 reports in 2011 to approximately 200 in 2012, burglaries in dwellings have decreased from 9 in 2011 to 5 in 2012. However there has been a spate of break ins of commercial premises over the last month especially around Rawtenstall market and Bank Street, with the figures showing an increase in 15 reports in 2011 to 24 reports in 2012. (All figures do not include the Waterfoot area).

Sgt McBain was asked if PCSO's can issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) for dog fouling and littering offences. PCSO's can issue FPN's, however not all PCSO's have the correct training .

Concerns were raised to Sgt McBain that elders who use the Mosque off Bacup Road are concerned by late night activity at the Vogue Nightclub, including taxis obstructing access and people urinating on the back street. This may become more of an issue during Ramadan.

**Tamzin Percival;** thanked everyone who helped with the preparation for the Torch Relay for their hard work.

Tamzin also explained the timescales and works being done at the Valley centre; currently preparation works and rebuilding of walls are the main tasks with resurfacings commencing within the month. This should see a transformation of the Valley Centre site once the works commence.

CLLr Liz McInnes enquired when the works will be completed, Tamzin informed that the hoardings will be removed by the middle of August, an exact completion date couldn't be given but it was hoped the works should be completed by the end of August, weather permitting.

**Grants:** Rawtenstall Neighbourhood Forum was informed that current requests for funding outweigh the amount remaining in the budget.

The grants panel met prior to the meeting and discussed smaller requests for forum funding (max £500 per project). The outcome of this was as follows:

Outcome of forum grants panel meeting is as follows.

Mum's together - carpet for church hall - £480 granted.

Rossendale Community Choir - fees to enter choir festival – not funded.

Whitewell Bottom Pre School – internet connection – not funded.

Rossendale District Schools – new sports team for 16-18 yr olds- £182 granted (share with other forums).

Rossendale radio - publicity – not funded.

St James the Less Pre School - -shared resource for education and displays - £500 granted.

The grants panel are still keen to support groups with forum funding, however the number of projects that can be supported will be limited and therefore the following criteria will be used to prioritise requests:

Funding first time projects / new groups rather than groups who have previously had funding.

Funding items that are a long term investment rather than a short term one off.

Funding that shows a clear link to an action or priority in the neighbourhood plan.

Two business cases were put forward at the forum by representatives of the relevant groups – Positive start and Rossendale Revival. The forum asked questions relating to the projects and concluded that both projects should be supported, albeit not to the full amount requested. NB: The grants panel are due to meet again on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July to discuss these.

#### **Any Other Business:**

**Vicky Livesey; Health Improvement Services,** discussed information in her organisations newsletter, referencing key messages around the dangers of shisha smoking, a request for volunteers for Communities against Cancer, as well as further information and training about alcohol and tobacco.

Representatives from the Youth Council based at the Old Fire Station attended the Forum meeting to experience how local decision making agenda setting is made. Members of the Youth Council raised concerns about grass cuttings not being removed once the grass is cut, and that the traffic lights at the

pedestrian crossing on St Mary's Way opposite Asda do not sound an audible warning when it is safe to cross. Chris Blomerley explained that this might be because the traffic lights are two separate sets, the danger is that the bleeping could be confused between the two sets of lights giving the wrong information to those wishing to cross the busy road.

**Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012, St Anne's Church, Edgeside at 6.30pm. This not a public meeting, forum members only.**