

Minutes of : Bacup Neighbourhood Forum Neighbourhood Plan Meeting
Date of Meeting: 4th July 2012, Council Chamber, Futures Park, Bacup

Present:

Cllr Jackie Oakes (Chair)
Cllr Andy McNae
Cllr Steve Hughes
Cllr James Eaton
Cllr Helen Jackson
Cllr Christine Lamb
Cllr Barbara Ashworth
Isabelle Smith – Older People’s Forum
Anne Swift – Stacksteads Countryside Park Group
Tricia Brindle – Bacup Consortium
Julie Johnson – Health Improvement Service
Insp Judith Finney – Lancashire Police
Paul Greenwood – Bacup Pride
Neville Earnshaw – Britannia Coconut Dancers
John Challinor – Bacup TMO
Bryan Lamb – Rubicon
Jacqueline Parsons – Bacup Fellowship of Churches
Terry Haslam Jones – Acre Mill Baptist Church
Leila Allen – Bacup Family Centre
Sharn Wightman – Greenvale Homes
Paul Gallagher – Rossendale Leisure Trust
Hans Mundry – Youth Service LCC
Alison Wilkins - Rossendale Borough Council

Plus 18 members of the public.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Oakes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Michelle Smith and Pat Smith.

3. Notes and actions from the last meeting

The poor road surface in Weir was raised. Cllr Eaton reported that it the repairs were in the highways programme for 2012/13 whereas originally they had been in the programme for 2013/14.

It was noted that John Challinor’s apologies should be added to the notes of the previous meeting on 22 March. Other than that they were accepted as a correct record.

4. Update on local activities and services

a) Greenbelt and Urban Boundary Review

Anne Storah from Forward Planning at RBC outlined the procedure for amendments to the urban and greenbelt boundaries as part of the Core Strategy, a fifteen year plan for the Borough. The first stage involves looking at extending the urban boundary as part of which there will be a period of consultation in September which will be widely advertised. It was noted that Stacksteads Countryside Park Group would like to be kept informed.

Isabelle Smith raised concerns about the state of Greenway Walk and enquired whether S106 money could be used to improve it. Cllr Eaton advised that he had passed the concerns onto the footpath officer at LCC.

Action: Anne Storah and Alison Wilkins will check the situation regarding the S 106 money.

b) Heritage at Risk

Kathy Fishwick from Rossendale Civic Trust outlined the current campaign by English Heritage to address the problem of heritage crime. She explained that there has been much damage to heritage assets in recent years including theft of stone flags, coping stones, bronze from war memorials and lead from roofs, the latter in particular causing much damage.

English Heritage are asking people to keep an eye out and to report anything suspicious to the Police. She explained that parks and gardens are part of the heritage and ancient sites that can be damaged by off road vehicles.

The next stage will be the development of a local list of heritage assets.

c) Police Update

Insp Finney reported that metal theft is a nationwide problem and advised that people can call 101 to report crimes to the police.

She went through the crime figures and explained that overall the picture is good with most crimes going down compared with last year, including theft, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. Burglary is up slightly.

Bacup and Stacksteads now have a full Neighbourhood Policing Team with two new PCSOs – Richard Smith and Cara Shaw and a new PC – Louis Grant. Insp Finney explained that the Police were looking to open a Police base in Bacup in the next month or so.

d) Townscape Heritage Initiative

Cllr McNae reported that the Townscape Heritage Initiative is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund aimed at improving town centres in heritage areas.

Rossendale Council bid for funding under the scheme last year and has got through the first stage and has been awarded £50,000 to develop a full bid. There is up to £1.5m of capital funding that can be bid for plus 25% match funding if a good enough bid for Bacup can be out together. The funding would primarily be for shop front and public realm improvements.

A partnership Board with strong community representation will be put together to develop the bid, which has to be submitted by September 2013, although it is hoped the bid can be submitted in June 2013. The scheme will cover a defined area of Bacup town centre.

e) Bacup Natural History Society

Wendy Wattes from Bacup Natural History Society gave a presentation of the Society which was established in 1878. It is run by a committee of 12 people and has 60-70 members. The Society's premises in Bacup are open each Thursday evening from 7.30pm where people can visit the museum and look through the extensive archive which includes old Bacup Times and Bacup Chronicle newspapers.

The Society is currently working on improving their facilities including refurbishing the lecture room and resources area.

5. Progress on implementing the Bacup Neighbourhood Action Plan

The Action Plan Newsletter Update was circulated at the meeting. Alison Wilkins drew attention to the reports from Diamond Jubilee parties held in the area, which had benefited from funding from the Neighbourhood Forum. Alison also outlined a number of activities for young people that are being funded in Bacup and Hans Mundry from LCC Young People's Service introduced members of the Youth Cabinet who had attended the meeting.

The update also included a summary of Neighbourhood Forum grants awarded in 2011/12 and included feedback on the projects funded.

Bill Mercer from Rossendale Council outlined the project around improving signage in the Borough. Which includes new tourist brown signs to Lee Quarry and other visitor attractions. Bill can be contacted on 01706 252421 / billmercer@rossendalebc.gov.uk for more information.

The newly formed Bacup Traders Association meets regularly and has a Facebook page which contains details of meetings etc.

Julie Johnson from the Health Improvement Team at Lancashire Care NHS Trust gave an update on the activities in the area to promote health and well being including the Communities Against Cancer project, Change 4 Life and the Believing in Breastfeeding campaign. She drew attention to the wide range of resources and information available on the Change 4 Life website.

A meeting of Friends of Stubblee Park will take place on Saturday 21st July at 10.00am to which everyone is welcome.

6. Bacup Big Ideas

Cllr Oakes updated the Forum on the Bacup Big Ideas. A good response had been received to the recent request for ideas with over 23 submissions. A summary of all the ideas had been circulated with the agenda. A sub group of the Forum had met to go through the ideas against the criteria as the requests for funding far exceeded the amount available. At this stage no decisions have been made and two ideas shortlisted – match funding for the THI scheme and improvements to Bacup Royal Court Theatre will be the subject of presentations at the October meeting of the Forum. Many of the ideas submitted may be funded through the Townscape Heritage Initiative or other funding streams which will be explored.

7. Determining of Grant and Project Funding Applications

The Forum considered the following project funding applications, details of which had been circulated with the agenda:

Bacup Natural History Society - £4254 towards refurbishment of the resources and meeting area. The Society were also encouraged to explore other grant funding opportunities.

Rossendale Revival - £2750 per year for two years for Christmas and Easter events in Bacup town centre.

Greenvale Homes – Cutler Play Area – after discussion, it was agreed that funding of £1400 would be provided for a community artist providing the opportunity was advertised to local artists.

Rossendale Road Club - £2000 for training of leaders on the British Cycling Mountain Bike leadership qualification.

Bacup Consortium Trust - £1300 in 2012/13 and £1200 in 2013/14 towards the Easter Festival and Stubbyfest.

8. Any Other Business

Concern was raised regarding a property on New Line which had built stables, possibly without planning permission and where there are dogs barking all night.

Action: Alison Wilkins to raise the issue with Planning

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a business plan meeting on 18th October 2012, at The Business Centre, Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, Lancs