

Whitworth Neighbourhood Forum
Notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting
Shawforth Chapel, Whitworth
17th June 2013

Present: Cllr Tom Aldred (Chair), Cllr Madeline De Souza, Cllr Sean Serridge, Julie Johnson (Lancashire Care NHS Trust), Sgt Mark Taylor (Lancashire Police), PC Vinnie Hopkins (Lancashire Police), Mandy Whittaker (Greenvale Homes), Pat Myers (Community Member), Tony Phillips (Community Member), Ken Makin (Community member), Marie Eccles (Community member), Shirley Suthers (Community Member), Brian Furness (Community Member), Catherine Doyle (REAL), Andrew Walmsley, (Community First Responders), Amanda Robertson (Credit Union), Anthony Doggett (Healthwatch Lancashire), Peter Mills, Jeanette Bebb, David Hill, Beth English, (Free Press), Alison Wilkins (RBC).

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Cllr Aldred welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that it is a business plan meeting, but open to the public. He advised that people were requested to keep their questions to issues included on the agenda.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies: Cllr David Barnes, Colin Hubbard, Cllr Alan Neal

3. **Notes and action from the last meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 4 March were accepted as a correct record. Mandy Whittaker advised that further information on the funding available through Together Housing for community regeneration activities could be provided if people wanted.

4. **Update on Local activities and services**

a) Police Update

PC Vinnie Hopkins read out the latest crime figures for Whitworth, which showed that generally crime, including anti-social behaviour, was lower than the same time last year. PC Hopkins advised that he has now been trained on the speed camera and is using it in hot spot areas of Whitworth. A couple of warrants had recently been issued for properties where cannabis was being grown and £15,000 and £22,000 worth of the drug had been seized.

b) Credit Unions

Cllr Amanda Robertson gave an update on the credit unions in the Borough. There are three Credit Unions – Bacup, Mid Rossendale and First Choice in Haslingden, although residents or employees in the Borough can join any of them. They are all run by volunteers. Members can be any age and adults pay £2 to join. People can just save or they can take out loans at very good rates.

The Credit Unions can also supply 'white goods' such as washing machines etc. through Co-op Electricals.

Further information is available through the website: www.firstchoicecu.co.uk / www.midrossendalecu.co.uk or email bacupcredit.union@ntlbusiness.com

c) Health Improvement Service

Julie Johnson from the Health Improvement Service gave an update on recent initiatives including Men's health Week, Chemical Soup project with young people, Breast Feeding Awareness Month and Communities Against Cancer.

Julie also explained that the HIS also provides lots of training on health related issues and they can train members of community groups etc. to deliver basic training to their clients / service users.

d) Healthwatch Lancashire

Anthony Doggett from Healthwatch Lancashire gave a short presentation about the organisation. He explained that Healthwatch Lancashire has replaced Lancashire Link, and was set up in April to be the consumer champion for health and social care. It has two main roles: to collect peoples experiences, good or bad, and to feed back to the Care Quality Commission; to spot trends in the feedback and look at things in more detail where there are issues or concerns. Healthwatch Lancashire can request information from services and can also inspect services.

Healthwatch Lancashire can give advice about accessing services and signposting. They are keen to keep in touch with people and keep them up to date, and encourage people to complete the form to become a member.

Further information is available via the website: www.healthwatchlancashire.co.uk / Tel: 0844 8800133

5. Progress on implementing the Whitworth Neighbourhood Action Plan

An update newsletter on the Neighbourhood Plan was circulated, detailing progress in implementing the Plan and other local initiatives. The following projects were highlighted:

Whitworth Historical Society – celebrates 40 years this year. Supported by grant funding from Whitworth Neighbourhood Forum they are progressing two projects – organising and conserving the photographic archive and building a wheelchair accessible entrance to the museum. They have also benefitted from a number of donations in kind e.g. bricks, flag stones etc. from local companies and the Council. Brian Furness also advised that they are working with schools and their aim as an organisation is recreational, organisational and research.

Valley Careers Day – this is taking place on 2 July from 10 – 4 at The Kingfisher Centre in Rawtenstall.

Heritage at Risk – Kathy Fishwick is working with the Council's Conservation Officer to draw up a list of Buildings at Risk. This is part of a nationwide campaign by English Heritage, who are running a one day workshop on Thursday 1 August at the AB&D Centre in Bacup. The event is open to anyone interested who can contact Kathy for more info on 01706 229937 / rossendalecivictrust@googlemail.com

Funding - there are grants available through the Police and Crime Commissioners Community Action Fund. More details are available from www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/caf

There is also grant funding available through the Neighbourhood Forum for the current financial year, although this will be the last year such funding is available. Contact Alison Wilkins on 01706 252593 / alisonwilkins@rossendalebc.gov.uk for a form.

Friends of Rossendale Cemeteries – the next meeting is on Tuesday 25 June at 6pm at Longholme Methodist Church in Rawtenstall. The agenda includes a talk on the history of the cemeteries and details of a project to survey and record Historic Designed Landscapes across Lancashire including cemeteries.

Summer MUGA Project – Rossendale Leisure Trust, in partnership with RBC are offering free sessions for children and young people in the multi-use games areas across the borough, including Masseycroft / Wallbank in Whitworth. The Whitworth sessions will be on Fridays throughout the summer holidays from 1-4pm.

6. Determining of grant and project funding applications

The following grant applications were approved by the grants panel:

Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee - £500 towards Whitworth Rushcart
Rossendale District Schools Football Association - £55 pro rata contribution towards
competition costs
Shawforth Chapel Methodist Church Carebears - £500 towards play equipment.

In addition the Forum considered the following project funding applications:

Shawforth Chapel Development Group - £2000.00 approved towards the cost of a new
roof

Rossendale Community First responders – the Expression of Interest was approved
and Full Business Case requested - £160 pro rata contribution towards airtime for
paggers.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 7th October at 6.30pm at Whitworth Civic Hall. This will be
a Business Plan meeting.