

Haslingden, Helmshore & Edenfield Neighbourhood Forum

Public Meeting

27 June 2013

St Peter's Community Centre, Hall St, Haslingden

Minutes

In attendance:-

Cllrs Cheetham (AC), Essex (BE), Evans (PE), Kenyon (AK), Morris (GM), Sandiford (GS), Smith (DS), Procter (MP), McNae (AMc)
Catherine Price, RBC (CP)
PC Claire Downs, Lancashire Police (CD)
PCSO Keely Dermody, Lancashire Police (KD)
Vikki Livesey, Health Improvement Officer (VL)
Andrew Walmsley, Haslingden Community Link (AW)
David Stansfield, County Cllr & Chair Rising Bridge & Hud Hey Residents Association (DS)
Colette Butler, Community Champion for Tesco (CB)
Gwyneth Cameron, St Peter's Community Church & Centre (GC)
Anthony Doggett, Healthwatch Lancashire (AD)
Therese Balmain, Greenvale Homes (TB)
Catherine Doyle, REAL Rossendale (CD)
John McManus, Haslingden Street Fair (JM)
Ann Smith, Civic Trust & Acre Resident (AS)

The forum was also attended by 8 members of the public

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and all attendees introduced themselves to the forum.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Milling, Shipley, Wilkinson
Paul Bradburn, EVRA
Lin Cutforth, St Peter's Community Church & Centre
Rob Moss, Friends of Victoria Park
Harry Holden, Friends of Victoria Park
Yvonne Cox, Friends of Snig Hole Park
Kathy Fishwick, Rossendale Civic Trust

3. Notes & Actions from the last meeting

Rossendale Community Health Group - No update was available for this as regards funding or how Edenfield could be included in the project.

Police 101 - CD & KD confirmed that the police's 101 phone number was working well. They stressed that it is a national initiative and so its important that any feedback on the service is raised with the police. GS confirmed that she and GM had received a good service recently when they had cause to contact 101.

Haslingden Street Fair – JM confirmed that the arrangements for the HSF were progressing well. They have 20 stalls booked by local organisations but would welcome more (booking form included with minutes). Already confirmed stallholders and attractions are: Headspace, Haslingden library, Helmshore Museum, Arietta Music, Cissy Greens, Newchurch Deli, climbing wall, 9 dart challenge run by St Vincents, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Thingumajig Theatre, Cadets and Veterans, Cakes. JM was concerned about the cost of arranging street closures and said that it has cost the group a significant chunk of their funding to cover the cost of the closure, but that a lot of the cost was on notifications in the local press, which have a dwindling readership. He encouraged cllrs to apply pressure to change the law in this regard. CP agreed to find out what happened with street closure / traffic & crowd management in Bacup with the Coconutters.

4. Update on Local Activities and Services

- a) **Credit Unions** – MP gave an update on credit unions and their services. HHH credit union was now called First Choice but still based in Greenfield St, Haslingden. The union is run by volunteers and regulated by the FSA. Their aim is to provide ethical savings and loans, and to help people manage their finances. They don't offer instant loans, and there is a maximum 2% interest charge on any loans they offer. They've saved their member borrowers in the region of £16,000 in interest payments. They also offer Christmas and Junior savings clubs. The credit union are looking for new volunteers, and people are encouraged to pop into the credit union if they want to know more www.firstchoicecu.co.uk
- b) **Civic Trust** – AS updated members on the workshop being offered by English Heritage for people to find out more about Local Listings. The workshop is free of charge and will include civic trust organisations from around the North West. The workshop will include a tour around Bacup. The workshop will be held on Thursday 1 August at the AB & D Centre in Bacup. Anyone interested in attending should contact Kathy Fishwick of the Rossendale Civic Trust – 01706 229828 / rossendalecivictrust@googlemail.com
- c) **Health Improvement Service** – VL: updated members on the recent work of the Health Improvement Service (see newsletter). This included Chemical Soup, Men's Health Week, Training opportunities and Volunteering Week.

CP advised that the newsletter contains a list of all the activities which the Health Improvement Service have delivered which contribute to the priorities of the Neighbourhood Forum Action Plan. AW confirmed that the majority of those activities / actions are or have been delivered at Haslingden Community Link.

vikki.livsey@lancashirecare.nhs.uk / 01254 358027

- d) **Healthwatch Lancashire** – AD confirmed that Healthwatch Lancashire had replaced Lancashire Link and were a new consumer champion for health and social care services. They provide guidance to help consumers make informed choices about their healthcare. They are a social enterprise set up and funded by Lancashire County Council and cover 3 localities – one of which is based in Burnley and covers East Lancashire. The work they are doing at the moment is: finding out about people’s experiences of healthcare; putting forward people’s views on healthcare to service providers; and involving people in the commission of healthcare services. They also signpost people to NHS advocacy services. Healthwatch Lancashire want to hear from you about how services are working locally. The point being that the organisation can put forward a stronger case for change by pulling all views together. 0844 8800133 / info@healthwatchlancashire.co.uk

5. Progress on implementing the Haslingden, Helmshore & Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (see newsletter)

CP took members through updates in the neighbourhood plan, and members discussed relevant issues, including:

- Concern about the wildflower meadow as part of the Rising Bridge Roundabout design. GS said strongly that she doesn’t like wildflower meadows as they look untidy and felt that more planting should be included instead such as heather. CP confirmed that the remit of the project was extremely difficult as it required planting which was inexpensive, covered a large area, low growing, required little or no maintenance, and could withstand strong weather conditions and pollution. This meant that it has taken a long time to source appropriate planting and to try and keep the project within the limited budget. CP confirmed that to replace the wildflower meadow would be more costly (the roundabout covers 4000sqm) and would also minimise the positive impact on wildlife and insects, which was something the Highways Agency felt important. Other members liked wildflower meadows but were concerned at the level of maintenance they may require. GM asked whether the Highways Agency were contributing anything such as traffic management costs to the project. CP confirmed that the Highways Agency are not contributing anything, and as was the case at the outset, this was a forum project because members wanted to see improvements at the roundabout and without it being a forum project no improvements or changes will be seen. DS urged forum members to get behind the project as this was a matter

which had been discussed and complained about at every forum meeting for the last few years and we were now at the stage of seeing some real change, instead of just talking about it.

- CD outlined the latest crime figures for the forum, including that overall crime was down between 23 April and 4 June from 257 to 250; Anti social behaviour incidents were down by 70; theft remained steady, violent crime was down from 62 to 42. AC asked why figures for Edenfield and Helmshore weren't included in the newsletter. CP confirmed that she had just included those figures supplied by the police. GS asked for percentage detection rates to be included for future meetings. BE gave thanks to the community policing in Rossendale and Lancashire as he says the level of community policing stands out in comparison to other areas. A member of the public asked if there was a Wildlife Officer in Lancashire. CB & KD confirmed it was Mark Thomas, a civilian officer 01772 413667 / 07908 776903 / mark.thomas2@lancashire.pnn.police.uk
- REAL – CD talked to members about the Veterans arts & crafts event and Operation War Graves 100 for the centenary of WWI which involves finding out about war graves, working with schools, Friends of Rossendale Cemeteries and Civic Trust, and improving war graves in cemeteries. CD encouraged members to sign up to the REAL database to find out about what's going on in the local area by going to the REAL website www.realtld.co.uk. CD confirmed that they find out about the latest crime figures from 'Lancashire in the Know' and post them on their facebook site. CD also said that the Dementia Choir is going from strength to strength – it has moved to Haslingden library every weds at 1.30pm and is for carers and the cared for with dementia.

6. Determining of grant and project funding applications

AW talked the group through the expression of interest proposal from Community First Responders. It was agreed that this should go through to the next stage for funding approval. A number of members proposed that the funding should be able to be approved at this stage without being required to go through the business case stage, because of how important the application was, and because for each individual forum the amount requested was within the grant funding amount. CP said she was take the feedback and see if the process could be simplified for them based on the recommendations of the forum.

Grant funding applications:

(see over)

Organisation	Description	Amount requested	Awarded	Comments
Grane Residents Association	Bulbs on grane road	£300.00	£0.00	The grants panel were concerned about the amount requested, the lack of fundraising by the group and the value for money. It has instead been agreed that the council will donate spare bulbs to the group.
St Peter's Knit & Natter	Garden party to celebrate 2nd anniversary	£100.00	£0.00	<p>The grants panel are concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Peter's have already received large sums of money from the forum and are keen to spread the funding as widely as possible. - The event does not benefit the wider community - The group could fundraise to cover the cost of the event (either at the event or beforehand) <p>The grants panel are pleased to see the group continuing following the support given to the group by the forum last year.</p>
Rossendale District Schools Football Association	Costs of Town Team	£155.50	£155.50	This grant was part of a borough wide application and the Haslingden proportion was conditional on funding being granted by all other forums. The grants panel were very supportive of this application but expressed concern about the sustainability of the team beyond the current financial year, what support was being given by the English FA, and whether there was scope for this increasing.

Edenfield Village Residents Association	Continued improvements to flower bed	£350.00	Postponed	Information has been requested regarding the works already carried out at the fingerpost to determine whether it's reasonable to provide further funding for the additional works.
Stubbins Residents Association	improved path drainage & lighting to St Philips Church, Stubbins	£500.00	Postponed	From March Forum – The grants panel would like to see the funding used on a specific part of the project rather than swallowed up into a larger funding pot. Request for the lighting element to be costed up with a view to funding going towards that.

(minutes continued over)

7. Any Other Business

A member of the public asked about the 20mph speed limit and asked for an update. BE and PE confirmed that the recommendation as a result of the consultation in March was for the 20mph to be just at school times, and 30mph at all other times. This was now with the Portfolio Holder at Lancashire County Council. CP confirmed members would be kept updated with this.

A member of the public encouraged people to visit www.helmshoreonline.com to keep up to date with what's going on in Helmshore.

AMc was asked to give an update on Haslingden Swimming Pool. He confirmed that the Council is committed to helping to find a solution and had set aside £200,000 to support an organisation to take the swimming pool over. They have been through the Expression of Interest process and 3 organisations had expressed an interest – 2 from the private sector and 1 community group. They have been given until mid-August to work up a more detailed proposal. Unfortunately the 2 private sector organisations have since pulled out of the process, one because they couldn't make the proposal work financially, and the other because they were choosing between 2 options and had decided the other option was more viable. This leaves Friends of Haslingden Pool and they are appealing for people to get involved who have business and managerial skills to support them in the proposal. In the meantime the council are offering them as much support as possible.

GC thanked the forum for the project funding which was going towards the ongoing complete renovation of the Community Centre.

8. Date of next meeting. The next forum will be a business planning meeting and details will be circulated to members of the forum.