

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 21st January 2019

Present: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair)
Cllrs L. Barnes, Janet Eaton, Gill, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon,
Morris, Procter and Robertson
Zieda Ali, Co-opted Member

In attendance: Sam Plum, Director of Communities
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services Officer
Inspector Clarke, Lancashire Constabulary
Phill Holden, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Ken Masser, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Lisa McDowell, CLAW
Christine Ashcroft, CLAW

Also Present: Cllrs Ashworth, Cheetham, Lamb, Oakes and Walmsley
0 press
2 public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

1.1 No apologies for absence had been received; all members were present.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018 be approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 as he is appointed to Rossendale Leisure Trust on behalf of the Council.

3.2 Councillor Lythgoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 8 and 9 as he is appointed to Rossendale Leisure Trust and CLAW on behalf of the Council.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 The Chair noted that he would allow questions to be asked on each item as it was discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 6.1 The Holiday Hunger Task and Finish Scrutiny Day has been arranged around the availability of schools and external partners and is on 11th February 2019.

7. LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY ANNUAL UPDATE

- 7.1 Inspector Clarke noted that due to new computer systems, full year comparable statistics for Rossendale were currently unavailable and provided the committee with the annual update as follows:-

- There were currently 15 PCs and 11 PCSOs working from Rossendale. 2 PCSO positions would be filled by reallocation or recruitment. There were 2 Sergeants for Rossendale, one had retired and their replacement had started 2 weeks previously. Vacancies within the Early Action Team had been filled.
- Rossendale had been exempt from the neighbourhood reviews and these reviews had freed up vehicles for the Rossendale area.
- The premises at Waterfoot were still open. The enquiry counter had closed, however a telephone/intercom was available. The premises also housed the Crisis Management Unit, the Community First Responders and was a Divisional Training Centre for Lancashire.
- There were outlying offices in Whitworth, Bacup, two in Haslingden and the Early Action Team had a base in the Maden Centre, Bacup.
- Crime patterns were outlined:-
 - There had been an increase in dwelling burglaries in Bacup; 3 significant arrests had been made with the ringleader currently in prison.
 - Haslingden had seen some disorder around the World Cup which had meant significant resources allocated to each subsequent England match.
 - In September there had been an increase in 'Hanoi' offences (stealing car keys and high performance vehicles). Two significant arrests had been made with investigations ongoing.
 - In October/November there had been a spike in shop break-ins in Waterfoot. An individual had been charged with 6 offences with sentencing taking place in February.
 - An offender had been identified in Haslingden with a court date set for February.
- Incidents in Whitworth were noted, in particular the break-in at Samba Dance. Extra resources had been committed to the area and crime rates had dipped.
- Road traffic accidents – serious injuries were around the same as last year, however there had been a reduction in fatalities.

- 7.2 Members and members of the public commented on the update:-

- Community patrols were taking place in Whitworth. There had been a meeting on Friday 18th January, with another meeting planned for Tuesday 22nd January. Inspector Clarke confirmed that a representative would be at the Tuesday meeting. It was noted that the representative should have knowledge of the Whitworth area.
- It was noted that there was a police presence which included a mobile ANPR camera. This camera was not always noticeable to the public.

- The council tax precept was discussed. Inspector Clarke was not privy to the exact allocations of this precept as this was at the Police and Crime Commissioner level. However he noted that recruitment into Rossendale had recently taken place.
- Petty crime undertaken by an individual in Waterfoot was discussed and details would be passed onto Inspector Clarke.
- Parking and obstruction was noted in Haslingden, particular around the Green Squirrel. It was noted that parking fell under the remit of Lancashire County Council. The police had some powers with regards to obstruction; however this was subject to resources and allocation of resources to other areas.
- A police incident in Edenfield was noted and that the information provided to residents afterwards could have been better. This was noted and it was noted that not all residents were on Facebook or Twitter.
- An update was provided on CCTV – the tender process was complete and had been awarded. Work onsite would commence shortly with April 2019 as the intended completion date.

Resolved:

1. The update was noted and Inspector Clarke was thanked for his attendance.

NB: Inspector Clarke left the meeting.

8. ROSSENDALE LEISURE TRUST UPDATE

8.1 Rossendale Leisure Trust showed a YouTube video which supplemented their Annual Report. The video summarised activities during 2018 and plans for 2019 as follows:-

- Refurbishments across the Trust's facilities
- GDPR compliance
- Challenges from competitors
- Administration improvements
- Engagement with parents
- Support from the Council
- New pitches and aspirations
- Extensions to pools and the pool programme
- Schools coaching programme

8.2 The new challenge with regards to Spinning Point and the new Spa was noted.

8.3 Members and members of the public commented on the update as follows:-

- Playing fields were available at Whitwell Bottom which could benefit from some joined-up working from the Leisure Trust.
- The video was a high quality presentation.

Resolved:

1. The update was noted and the Leisure Trust were thanked for their attendance.

9. CLAW UPDATE

9.1 Representatives from CLAW provided members with the annual update as follows:-

- The Riverside:-
 - There had been an increase in family and daytime activities, including teddy bear's picnics, mini me sessions, children's theatre company events, etc. These events had led to other bookings.
 - Breakfast with Santa was a new event which had sold out in 2 days. Two of these events were now planned for 2019.
 - The Christmas market had been a success with 24 stalls attending and turkey sandwiches provided by the Riverside selling out in 2 hours. More stalls could be housed outside in 2019.
 - The gin festival had been a success with a gin and rum festival planned for 2019.
 - Winter wedding offers had been advertised and extra summer offers for Fridays would be promoted.
 - The Ladies Day at Ascot event had been successful with another planned for 2019.
 - The website required updating to become more user-friendly.
 - It was noted that staffing at the Riverside was generally low, however there had been some issues this year and the staff had pulled together to ensure business continuity.
- The Leisure Centre
 - New circuit classes were taking place on Monday evenings with a second night being considered.
 - There had been an increase in school swimming lessons.
 - A small refurbishment had taken place in the gym including new LED lighting. The lighting was more expensive but should last longer.
 - New flooring was required which would cost around £3.5k.
 - Roof leaks had been experienced and fixed, although there was still a leak in reception which meant that redecoration could not take place.
 - Electrics on the pool cover required fixing along with other items.
 - The air management system was still required.
 - The pool was prone to power cuts; however these cuts were not long enough to qualify from compensation. The power cuts usually resulted in a loss of water and around £3-4k had been spent on investigations.
 - Staff turnover was generally low.

9.2 Members and members of the public commented on the update as follows:-

- Financial figures would have been useful. The recession had resulted in less spent on the bar which is where a lot of the profits at the Riverside were.
- Daytime activities had resulted in some bookings for other events.
- Promotion took place on social media, leafletting, parish magazine and the signage at either end of Whitworth.
- Swimming pools were generally hard to make money from.
- The annual grant from the Council was acknowledged and it was noted that this was due to decrease in coming years.

- Some schools came to Whitworth Baths and others to Marl Pits. Schools from outside the area also attended classes at Whitworth.
- CLAW was a registered charity and bids had been submitted for funding, however only a few small grants had been obtained. Successful bids often required expert knowledge on the grant submission process.

Resolved:

1. The update was noted and CLAW were thanked for their attendance.

10. THE FORWARD PLAN

10.1 The Committee and Member Services Officer noted that the Forward Plan had been re-published since publication of the O&S agenda. An update was given on items coming to O&S in February and March. The February agenda was expected to be as follows:-

- Citizens Advice
- The annual budget reports
- Customer and Digital Strategy
- IT Policies – TBC
- Q3 Performance Report.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.45pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____