

Chadderton Community Council

Date: Tuesday 24th June 2008

Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Venue: Kingfisher School, Foxdenton Lane

Present: Councillors: Hibbert, Hudson, E Hulme, J Hulme, McLaren, Quinn, Rogers (Community Champion) and Wrigglesworth.

Co-optees: Barbara Wilson, Christine Dennis, Dawn Fox and Tony Tomlinson

In Attendance: Simon Shuttleworth and Elizabeth Frier

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Councillor D Jones, Co-optees Will Lindley, Pauline Richardson (Chair), Ian Jarvis and Alan Wilde and Inspector Wilcocks.

2. Reappointment of Co-optees and appointment of Chair for the meeting

Tony Tomlinson was nominated by Councillor Rogers to Chair this meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Hudson. The Co-optees were reappointed from the previous municipal year for this meeting.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. Youth Service Update

Arman Khan introduced a presentation by the Youth Service. The Open Access service provides various activities for 13-23 year olds four nights a week Monday to Thursday at Oakbank Youth Centre. Activities include pool, table tennis art and crafts and computers. The scheme also runs accredited AQA courses for young people. Summer activities include water sports and swimming activities at Hyde baths and other agencies work with Open access such as Kick-start.

Glynis Queenan asked as Secretary of a Residents Group at Lancaster Street and Drury Lane asked if the Youth Centre would be interested in work with the Local Community and was advised that the Youth club would welcome any suggestions to work with the local community. Cllr J Hulme asked what subjects were discussed at workshops held by the Youth Centre and was advised the youths picked the topics to discuss and recently the most voted for topic is gangs and Street violence.

Chadderton Community Council

5. Oldham Night- Stop Update

Julie Thomas of Oldham Night Stop gave a brief presentation about the operation of Oldham Night Stop funded by the Depaul Trust. It was explained the objectives of the service are to support young people to return to home where safe to do so by providing emergency accommodation for 16-25 year olds. This is achieved by engaging volunteers to join the scheme who are willing to open the door of their home to help a young person in need. All volunteers have to undertake training and have a CRB check and references are required to join the scheme. The target homeless for the scheme is the hidden homeless, those young people who are sofa surfing or have had an argument with their parent, who can be offered a bed for the night and breakfast and a bus ticket back to the referring agency until a permanent solution is found. Currently there are two volunteers in Oldham who are willing to give feedback to any prospective volunteers.

Cllr Hudson felt that the Night Stop was a marvellous idea and asked if there was follow up for the young people involved and was told that Night Stop liaise with FCHO to find permanent accommodation, and with the Night Stop Service young people are accommodated for up to 3 days and then are referred to Swift Court lodgings.

Dawn Fox asked if the service operated out of hours and is the service going to be extended to younger people and was advised that at the moment the service is only operating between office hours and the age would be lowered in the future.

Cllr Quinn felt that the idea was fantastic and asked what could local Councillors do to promote the Night Stop and was advised that there is a stigma attached to homelessness and any help to dispel the current attitudes toward homelessness people would help. Cllr Quinn suggested that all the local councillors should be e-mailed and informed of the service and information could be passed to local groups.

Cllr J Hulme asked if local religious groups and been contacted to promote Night Stop and was told that local groups had been contacted but any help offered would be beneficial in the promotion of the service Cllr McLaren asked if there was further follow up work after the youngsters have been rehoused and was advised that supportive lodgings help with the future plans of the young people and routes back to employment are discussed.

6. Police update

Chadderton Community Council

Sergeant Kam Hare reported that the currently there are a lot of Shed break-ins around the Chadderton area and the thieves are using tools from the sheds to break into houses around the area. Sgt Kam advised the meeting that the Police would be putting a factsheet together and it would be advertised in the chronicle about safeguarding tools and sheds. The Sergeant reported to the meeting that the Neighbourhood policing team had executed drug warrants due to local information from the community and 3 cannabis farms/factories had been found in Chadderton. This had been successful due to the help of the local community and the houses had been rented specifically to grow the plans and Sergeant Hare advised the meeting that if anything suspicious is seen members of the public should report it to the police. In relation to vehicle crime Sgt Hare reported that members of the public still leaving valuables on display in their cars and car crime rate is going up, therefore people need to get into a routine of emptying their cars when locking their car up. Sgt Hare reported some good news that PC Adele Brown was joining the Neighbourhood Policing Team and each ward would have two officers. It was also reported that the police are currently looking for community volunteers and Alan Wilde was assisting with Home Watch campaigns around the Chadderton Area.

Cllr Quinn thanked the police for all their hard work in relation to the Chadderton Fun day and the good relationships the police have with youths in the area.

A local resident advised the meeting that he had reported a suspicious car to the police near to his home, the police came out to look at the vehicle checked that it was taxed and insured and advised the homeowner that there was nothing more that they could do, Sergeant Hare asked the homeowner to speak to him after the meeting to discuss the matter further.

Tony Shaw asked Sergeant Hare why do the Police cars use the sirens and lights when driving down Braodway as it was disturbing local residents at night. Cllr Hibbert advised the meeting that Tony was not the first to complain about the noise from the sirens. Sergeant Hare explained to the meeting that for insurance purposes the lights and sirens needed to be on display although officers on response calls have been told to be considerate and if anyone needed to complain then the number the van was needed.

7. Public Questions

Steve Lynch from Chadedrton Park Juniors Football club asked the meeting if there were enough sporting facilities in Chadderton to accommodate the residents adding that in Chaddrteon there are over 3,00 children in 3 Secondary schools and only a hand full of pitches with no basic facilities. This means that within Chadderton,

Chadderton Community Council

sporting tournaments cannot be held as the pitches are so badly maintained and Manchester United were turned down to play in the area due to the poor maintenance and standard of the local pitches. Steve Lynch also added that there are 12 primary schools within Chadderton and with latest initiative of 9 a side this cannot be competed in as there is no full size Astroturf pitch and asked if the elected Members were willing to work with the community to help improve facilities.

Cllr Hudson advised the meeting that on a personal note he felt fundraising would be part of the solution to the problem as places like Chadderton need to prioritise matters such as this is for the youth of Chadderton and matters such as this should be decided at local level, and advised the meeting he would help as much as he could.

Cllr Quinn advised the meeting that he fully agreed with Councillor Hudson and currently North Chadderton School have a bid with Boundary Park to the FA to have a little Wembley floodlit Astroturf pitch in Chadderton and felt when the Community Council is constituted matters such as this can be brought to the attention of the Council and people need to be present at Full Council to ask these sorts of questions.

Cllr McLaren advised the meeting that currently across the Borough there was football development and a partnership football foundation working with Oldham and Crossley Playing fields has been identified and although there has been no publicity there have been areas who have achieved a degree of progress in this area and this strategy was developed out of a dispersal Order.

Mark Lawson chairman of the Historical Society advised the meeting that in April 2007 he took part in a consultation exercise held in Chadderton Precinct by Regeneration and ask when the report would be published. Cllr Hibbert advised he would provide the report and Councillor asked could the report be provided for the September meeting.

The second question asked by Mark Lawson was in relation to Festive Markets in Chadderton and asked if the markets Supervisor had been contacted to have a regular Market in the area. Councillor Hibbert advised the meeting that there was a push to bring the Wednesday market back as the recent market held in the Chadderton precinct was very successful. Councillor Quinn agreed that there is a need for the markets in Chadderton and a sub Committee needs to be in place to arrange stalls and themed events, and if there is a commercial need for the Market then something needs to be done.

Chadderton Community Council

Christine Dennis advised the meeting the meeting that on the 29th April 2009 the Chadderton Historical Society are holding St. Georges Day celebrations at Chadderton Town Hall. Tickets will be available.

A local resident enquired about the old Radclyffe Lower School building and its future and was advised by Councillor E Hulme that the building is up for sale however the fields around the building are being retained by the Council and currently the building was being used for police and Fire Crew training. This was confirmed by Councillor Hudson who stated there is an assurance to retain the fields as green open space. Councillor McLaren confirmed there is a developer for the site.

A local resident advised the meeting that walking dogs through Chadderton Hall Park was now difficult due to the signs that have now been placed in the park advising dog owners to keep their dogs on leads and if this was the case then dog walking areas should be allocated and this problem is caused by the minority of irresponsible dog owners. Councillor J Hulme advised the meeting that this particular subject had been discussed at the Friends of the Park meeting 2 weeks ago as the issue of dog fouling needs to be addressed and the problem that Oldham currently has is that there is only 6 enforcement Officers for the whole of the Borough. Councillor J Hulme suggested that the resident attends the next Friends of the Park meeting in September to air their views as a representative from Environmental Health will also be present.

8. Discussion on the Future of Community Councils

Bruce Penhale presented a report of the Chief Executive regarding the Establishment of Area Committees. The report went before Council on the 21st May 2008 to seek approval from Council to develop proposals for the establishment of Area Committee with clear decision making powers including the option of powers for taking local planning decisions, to consider the resource implications of the changes and the level of budget, to consult existing Community Councils and partner organisations about the proposals and in the light of consultation bring a report to July Council with proposal to implement the changes in September this year and it was proposed that Chadderton would remain as one Area Committee.

Councillor Rogers told the meeting that he was happy to revert back to Area Committees as the meetings would be fully constituted, but also wanted to keep ward sub-groups. Councillor Rogers felt that there should be a debate as to how many meetings should take place, should the chair stay independent or should it be a Councillor and felt that Planning should not be dealt with at a local level.

Chadderton Community Council

Councillor Hibbert advised the meeting that he felt there had not been a change within the meetings since the last Area Committee and felt that renaming the meetings had no relevance and asked why not rename the committee a Township or Chadderton Township and that the Community Councils had operated in much the same way as the previous Area Committees in relation to sub groups. Councillor Hibbert expressed concern about local planning committee as the meetings would be complicated and time consuming and if the applicant did not agree with the sub group decision there is a right of appeal and if the appeal is won the costs fall back on the Area Committee to be funded from the proposed budget. Finally Councillor Hibbert reiterated the fact that he felt the meetings did not need to change and Planning should stay within the Planning Committee based at the Council.

Councillor Quinn told the meeting he was in favour of Area Committees and when the Committees were ran by Jim Greenwood the work was successful for Chadderton. Councillor Quinn felt that as the meetings would be constituted rather than the current position of Community Councils the committee would have greater influence on decision making for Chadderton with increased delegated powers which would reignite the identity of Chadderton. Councillor Quinn advised that the most important issue to make sure the budget reflects the powers given to Area Committees and agreed that planning should not come down to a local level and needs to stay within the Council.

Christine Dennis a Co-opted Member had been a member of both Community Council and Area Committee and felt that Co-optees had fewer powers under the Area Committee structure but under Community Councils Co-opted members had more influence and had brought about changes within the meetings.

Tony Tomlinson Co-optee agreed that planning should stay at the Council.

Councillor Wrigglesworth agreed that three sub meetings are important and the changes would make little difference in Chadderton but other wards will be affected by the changes.

Councillor J Hulme advised the meeting the recent traffic problems were going to be looked at by the police and that any member of the meeting should see their ward Councillor about the problems after the meeting.

Mike Lawson of the Chadderton Historical Society agreed with Councillor Quinn in relation to the proposed Area Committees and felt the Committee should be

Chadderton Community Council

addressed as the Chadderton Township Assembly and felt that all parts of Chadderton should work together as one Township.

A local resident felt that ward meetings did not need to be included in the future plans of Area Committees as they were under represented by the public however Councillors Rogers and McLaren advised the meeting that North Chadderton and Chadderton Central ward meetings were well attended.

A vote was taken in relation to the proposals:

To be named a Township 23 Votes
Against 2 Votes

To keep planning decisions at the Council 17 votes

To be named a Township Assembly 23
Against 1 vote.

Meeting finished at 9.00am