

## **SADDLEWORTH & LEES LOCAL BOARD**

**Wednesday 9 July 2008 at 5.30 pm**  
**Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill,**  
**Oldham OL3 6HS**

**Members Present:**

Brian Lord (Chair); Mike Buckley; Bill Hullah; Heather Rushton, Stuart Littleford;  
 Carol Wilde

**FCHO Officers Present:**

Joanne Griffin; Ray Wallis

**Meeting Convened At:**

**Brian Lord** took the Chair and convened the meeting at **5.35 pm**

**Apologies:**

Winifred Dillon; Val Sedgewick; Joanne Bentley

**Members Absent:**

No members were absent without apologies.

**Declaration of Interests:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Items of Urgent Business:**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

Brian Lord welcomed the three new tenant members to the meeting.

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 4 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations from last meeting held on 4 June 2008 and Matters Arising</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To approve the minutes and recommendations from the last meeting held on 4 June 2008 and discuss matters arising.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To Board is recommended to note the contents of the minutes and recommendations.
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	Correction to the previous minutes: the meeting commenced at 5.40 pm not 6.40 pm.
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.</b>

**Item 5 – Public Questions**

No members of the public were present and no questions were received prior to the meeting.

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 6 Sholver ENCAMS / Kite mark Award</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To update Local Board members on Sholver ENCAMS and the Kite mark Award.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	<p>Mike Buckley requested clarification regarding the levels of kite marks awarded. Exemplar is the best standard that can be achieved.</p> <p>Joanne Griffin clarified that the ENCAMS staff mystery shop and question residents. This ensures that the work FCHO is undertaking is ongoing instead of one clear up prior to an inspection.</p> <p>ENCAMS have charity status.</p> <p>Stuart Littleford enquired how work will continue after the Kite mark award. Joanne explained in detail how Sholver was judged and the work involved. 200 people in Sholver were surveyed over a three month period. These people were a mix of private residents and FCHO tenants.</p> <p>Mike Buckley stated that residents need to be kept engaged and the work must be sustainable. Joanne Griffin replied that community clear ups have been a great success. The local school has become involved.</p> <p>Stuart Littleford thought that the private residents may be more interested in the results than tenants. Brian Lord added that school children must be litter-aware, and this starts at Primary School level.</p> <p>Mike Buckley asked if private residents could become involved with the Sholver Tenant Management Organisation.</p> <p>Stuart Littleford asked if there are any rewards for achieving the Kite mark. Joanne Griffin replied that no financial award is made, but the award itself is prestigious.</p> <p>Groundwork is a charity and received a grant for work completed within this re-mit. The use of young offenders was discussed and the draw backs therein. Bill Hullah asked what the timescales are: Joanne Griffin replied that meetings etc must be arranged and the ENCAMS officers must speak to residents.</p>
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Members noted the content of the report.</b>

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 7 Estate Budgets</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To inform members about the way in which the localised estate budget spend will work including reporting to Local Boards. It includes details of the allocation and schemes for 2007-08 as well as this year's budget.
<b>Recommendations</b>	It is recommended that members note the contents of this report and provide any comments where necessary and relevant.
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	Ray Wallis detailed how it was proposed to report spend on the estate budget to Board. Aim was to empower Housing Officers to tackle issues on their estate in a timely fashion with little or no red tape.

	<p>Mike Buckley stated that there are general improvement projects and day to day expenses. Ray Wallis said that the West Oldham Board had asked that any single scheme that is projected to cost more than £2,400 be put to the Board. Housing Officers have ideas for schemes, although there are no tenants and residents groups in the Saddleworth &amp; Lees area. Tenant participation is difficult due to the diversity of the stock.</p> <p>The problem of the previously completed drying area at Vaughan Grove ruined by Mare's Tail weed was discussed, and how this swallowed up the previous environmental budget.</p> <p>Mike Buckley suggested a newsletter be sent to tenants asking for ideas, whilst avoiding raising expectations. Ray Wallis added the budget is now in place for this financial year. The use of contractors and the Council's Street Scene Service Level Agreement were discussed. Ray added that the schemes that will be carried out this year will probably be quite small. Stuart Littleford asked if any unused money can be rolled over to the next year, for example the surplus left from last year is being used this year; money is tight. Mike Buckley suggested a possible scheme to clear weeds and rubbish at Nicker Brow and will approach Joanne Bentley.</p>
<b>Resolution</b>	<p><b>Members noted the content of the report.</b></p> <p><b>Members agreed to request Joanne Bentley to pursue the clearing of over growth at Nicker Brow.</b></p>

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 8 Items for Future Meetings and Forward Planning</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	Board Members are invited to suggest possible items for future meetings.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Board is recommended to note and discuss the contents of the forward planning timetable and suggest possible items for future meetings.
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	Heather Rushton suggested tree-pruning. Brian Lord said the difficulty is identifying the ownership of trees.
<b>Resolution</b>	<p><b>Members noted the content of the forward planning timetable and the following items were requested:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An officer attends to explain the rationale of the tree-pruning programme.</b></li> <li>• <b>A relevant officer from the Allocations department explains the Choice-Based Lettings System.</b></li> </ul>

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 9 Any Other Business</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	<p>Stuart Littleford asked if priority is given for applicants for FCHO accommodation with a local connection to the Saddleworth &amp; Lees area. Brian Lord and Ray Wallis explained the Choice Based Lettings System.</p> <p>Bill Hullah tendered his resignation from the Local Board. Brian Lord accepted Bill Hullah's resignation with regret. Brian thanked Bill, on behalf of all members, for all his service and diligence during his work for the Board. He will be a greatly missed by Board Member.</p>
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Members agreed to accept the resignation of Bill Hullah from the Local Board.</b>

<b>Item No / Title</b>	<b>Item 9a Feedback from Main Board</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To discuss feedback from the last Main Board Meeting.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the contents of the report.
<b>Relevant Debate</b>	Brian Lord gave the meeting an up-date on the Options Appraisal. The panel are due to visit other authorities who have been through the same process.
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Members noted the content of the debrief.</b>

**Meeting Closed At:**

The Chair closed the meeting at 6.40 pm

**Item 10 - Next Meeting Date:**

Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 5.30pm

Venue: Holy Trinity School, Dobcross

**Apologies to:** Corporate Support Team  
**Telephone:** 0161 770 3536 / 3571 / 3576  
**Email:** fcho.corporate.support@oldham.gov.uk