

Saddleworth & Lees Community Council

Date: Thursday 24th January 2008

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: St John's the Baptist Church, Lees

Present: Mr C. Hare (in the Chair)
Councillor Heffernan – Community Council Champion
Councillor Buckley, Beeley, Lord, McCann, Roughley, Sedgwick and Wheeler.

Co-opted Members – Mr K. Begley, Ms J. Daubury, Mr P. Davenport, Mrs E. Firth, Mr R. Franklin, Mrs. P. Lord, Mr D. Makin, Mrs A. McInnes and Mrs P. Shipp.

Also in Attendance:-

Jan Joshi – Area Manager

Paul Davies – Officer Champion (Adult and Community Services Directorate)

Donna Parker – Principal Constitutional Services Officer

Keith Bennell – Environmental Services Directorate

John Dinsdale – Environmental Services Directorate

Karen Dolan – Environmental Services Directorate

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from:- Councillor Knowles.

Co-opted Member:- Mrs J. Bradley, Mr J. Hudson and Mrs J. Wresdell.

2. Notes of the Meeting held on 29th November 2007

AGREED: That the Notes of the Community Council Meeting held on 29th November 2007, be noted, subject to the addition of Mrs P. Shipp on the local Development Framework Sub-Group.

3. Saddleworth Safety Committee Update

Councillor Heffernan took the opportunity to ask Members of the Community Council if they would be interested in applying for the position of Secretary to the Saddleworth Safety Committee, and If anybody was interested in applying

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for this position to contact either Councillor Heffernan or Mrs A. McInnes (Co-opted Member) direct.

4. Marketing Sub Group Feedback

Mr R. Franklin (Co-opted Member) was in attendance and provided an update on the work that had been undertaken by the Marketing Sub-Group and outlined the proposals of the Sub-Group as detailed in the report.

The Community Council **AGREED** the following:-

- a) That a grant of £600 be agreed to increase the promotion of Farmers Markets to drive more tourists into the area which include the Museum Market and Church Farms' and the Craft Market, Lea Street;
- b) That a grant of £550 be agreed to assist to support local Band Contests to fund the youth prize and advertisements in the Bandsman magazine;
- c) That a grant of £600 be agreed for promotional leaflets and marketing to promote saving Springhead Community Centre;
- d) That a grant of £60 be agreed to fund a questionnaire to assess if Diggle Village want to hold a Band Contest;
- e) That a grant of £250 be agreed to assist fund the development of Lees Community Association with posters, leaflets and an initial meeting;
- f) That a grant of £860 be agreed in principle to fund a Notice Board for Lees Village and the Planning Application required;
- g) That a grant of £1,200 be agreed to fund the pilot GGRA – No Plastic Bags Campaign in Saddleworth;
- h) That a grant of £754 be agreed to fund signage in Denshaw;
- i) That a grant of £341 be agreed to fund a Notice Board for Diggle Village;
- j) That the application for Saddleworth Olympics be deferred until the next meeting of the Community Council as detailed information regarding the initiative had not yet been received.

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6. Police Update – Sergeant Johnson

Sergeant Johnson was in attendance and provided the Community Council with an update on the Crime Statistics within the Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South and Saddleworth West and Lees Wards for the period 29 November 2007 to 15 January 2008.

Members were informed of the initiatives the Police had put in place to reduce crime within the area and provided an update on arrests that had been made in and around the area. Members of the public were reminded not to leave valuables on display in unattended vehicles to reduce the risk of vehicle crime.

AGREED: That the report and comments be noted.

7. Churchill Playing Fields Update – Environmental Services Directorate

Mr K. Bennell, Environmental Services Directorate was in attendance and provided Members with an update on the latest position with regard to the drainage issues at Churchill Playing Fields. It was reported that Oldham Community Leisure had funded a survey at a cost of £220,000 to assess the drainage issues at the Playing Fields. It was reported that the fields flood when the river is high and therefore there are issues around the outfall at the site.

Members were informed that it would be an expensive job to improve the drainage at the playing fields and the Community would need to decide to what standard they wanted the Fields to be drained.

Mr Bennell reported that he was due to discuss the issue with the Environment Agency to take the matter forward.

AGREED: That the Mr Bennell, Environmental Services Directorate discuss the issue with the Environment Agency and provide the Community Council with an update according

8. Local Development Framework – Saddleworth and Lees Community Council Response – Councillor Buckley

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Councillor Buckley reported that at the last meeting of the Community Council a Sub-Group was formed to consider the proposals set out in the Local Development Framework document and to formulate a response on behalf of the Community Council, as the document was in a consultation period.

Councillor Buckley took the opportunity to inform the Community Council of the Sub-Groups findings and reported that he would submit the document to the Regeneration Directorate as the Saddleworth and Lees Community Councils formal response.

AGREED: That:

- (a) the report and comments be noted;
- (b) the document be forwarded to the Regeneration Directorate as Saddleworth and Lees Community Council Formal Response to the Local Development Framework document

9. Building Schools for the Future – For Information

Councillor Heffernan took the opportunity to read a statement to the Community Council that had been provided by Mr P. Hodkinson, Head of Schools PFI, Children, Young People and Families Directorate that provided up to date information regarding Building Schools for the Future (BSF) in Oldham with specific regard to the Saddleworth School.

Members of the Community Council expressed their concern at the document that had been provided as they felt it was very brief and did not provide any detailed information. Councillor Buckley commented that he understood that the information regarding BSF was confidential but he felt that the Community Council should set a series of questions relating to the Saddleworth and Lees area and BSF and request a formal response from Mr P. Hodkinson.

Councillor Heffernan stated that he would formulate a series of questions to be submitted to Mr Hodkinson regarding the BSF and request a response. Members were advised to feed any questions they wished to submit through Councillor Heffernan.

AGREED: That Councillor Heffernan submit a series of questions to the Head of School, PFI regarding BSF and circulate the response to all Members of the Community Council accordingly.

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10. Medical and Sports Sub-Group and Oldham Partnership Update

Mr P. Davenport (Co-opted Member) was in attendance and provided an update on the Oldham Partnership: The Local Area Agreement and the Medical and Sports Sub Group.

Members of the Community Council and the public were informed that if they wished to obtain any further details with regard to the two issues raised to contact Mr P. Davenport direct. He provided his Telephone Number at the meeting.

AGREED: That the report and comments be noted.

11. Dog Control Orders – Environmental Services Directorate

Mr J. Dinsdale and Ms K. Dolan were in attendance and advised that, as a result of the provisions contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; new powers had been given to local authorities to create Dog Control Orders. Environmental Services Officers were now in the process of seeking the views of interested parties on the implementation of Dog Control Orders in the Borough. The preliminary exercise was one of identifying areas where Dog Control Orders could be appropriate in the interest of the public safety. Ms Dolan outlined the responses that had already been received and asked local residents for their views in the form of a questionnaire that was available at the meeting. Members of the Community Council and public raised the following questions / concerns:-

- Councillor Lord commented that dog fouling was a common complaint. He also commented that he felt that dogs should be kept on a lead in Linear Park.
- Councillor Wheeler commented that she felt the dogs should be kept on a lead in parks and playing fields' as this is where children play. She also commented that she felt the fine should be increased from £50.00.
- A member of the public commented that he felt dogs should be allowed off their lead in Linear Park as it was an ideal place for dog walkers. He also felt that more dog litter bins should be implemented within the area.

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- Councillor Roughley commented that Oldham MBC should enforce the Dog Control Orders and people who own dogs should be required to sign a Dog Owner Behaviour Contract.

Ms Dolan reported that she would feedback the responses from the completed questionnaires at the next meeting of the Community Council for Members information.

AGREED: That the report and comments be noted.

12. Public Questions

The two following Public Questions were submitted in writing prior to the Community Council meeting:-

1. Mr R. Franklin (Co-opted Member) asked:- Cars have been parked on the railway side of Shaw Hall Bank Road for several weeks now. Not only are they causing an obstruction but arguably parked dangerously. I am aware that Sergeant Johnson has endeavoured to do something about it yet the response by the Traffic Wardens' group has been decidedly slow. This comes at a time when it is reported in the local press that on one occasion recently there were less than 3 Traffic Wardens simultaneously. Where does the line of authority lie as far as Traffic Wardens are concerned? These recent events feed to the belief that they are more concerned with revenue through fixed penalties than ensuring roads are safe?

In response, Sergeant Johnson commented that he would liaise with the Police Traffic Service Network and Oldham MBC to investigate the issue raised and would report his findings to the next meeting of the Community Council.

Mr M. Rouke (Member of the Public) asked:- 'I ask that the borough takes steps to improve advance information about Community Council Meetings available to the public on the OMBC website. Presently it doesn't appear that Community Council Meetings are acknowledged as an official Council meeting. For example, when Saddleworth & Lees is clicked on the menu, web-users are greeted by the words "No Meeting Diary to Display". This simply isn't good enough - especially for a council claiming to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue with local residents. To improve transparency and raise the status of Community Council business, could

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detailed agenda and minutes of all future proceedings be distributed on the net at least a week in advance of meetings?’

In response, Donna Parker, Principal Constitutional Services Officer, commented that a specific Community Council web page had been introduced on the Oldham MBC web site which displayed all the 12 Community Council Meetings Agenda and Notes and gave the details of the Chair, Community Champion and Area Manager for each Community Council. It also provided the details of the date, time and venue of all future Community Council Meetings.

AGREED: That the questions and responses be noted.

13. Grant Applications

The following two Grant Applications were considered:-

1. An Application was received from the Springhead Community Association requesting £130.00 to fund a coded security lock for the front entrance of the building.

AGREED: That a grant of £130 be given to the Springhead Community Association to fund a coded security lock for the front entrance of the building.

(**NOTE:** Councillors Beeley, Lord and Sedgwick left the room for the consideration of this item and did not vote thereon).

2. An Application was received from Councillor Sedgwick requesting £2000.00 to fund ten Hanging Baskets including the supply, fitting and maintenance for the Summer 2008 in Lees Village Centre.

AGREED: That a grant of £2000.00 be allocated to fund ten Hanging Baskets including the supply, fitting and maintenance for the Summer 2008 in Lees Village Centre.

(**NOTE:** Councillors Beeley, Lord and Sedgwick left the room for the consideration of this item and did not vote thereon).

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14. Items for the Next Community Council Agenda

Members of the Community Council were advised to inform Jan Joshi, Area Manager if they had any items they wished to be considered at the next meeting of the Community Council

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

AGREED: That the next meeting of the Saddleworth and Lees Community Council would be held on Thursday 6th March 2008 commencing at 6.30pm at the Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Saddleworth.