

## Werneth Community Council

**Date:** Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Venue:** St. Thomas's School, coppice. Access from St. Thomas Circle, behind St. Thomas's Church.

**Present:** Mr Fiaz Mohammed (in the Chair)  
Councillors F Hussain – Community Council  
Champion  
Councillors: S Akhtar & J Iqbal

Co-opted Members: Mohammed Alyas, Beverley Cornforth, Mary Fairhurst, Christine Goulden, Harold Jones and Julie Walker

**In Attendance:** Shashi Mohandas - Area Manager  
Sue Stanney – Constitutional Services Section

**Item No:**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Co-opted Members - Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammed Nawaz, Beth Sutcliffe, Shahid Rahine and Abdul Rashid

**2. Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair**

There were no items of urgent business.

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**3. To receive Declarations of Interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**4. Notes from the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

The notes of the previous meeting were **APPROVED**.

### **Site Allocations**

Officers from the Regeneration Department attended the meeting for this item and advised the Community Council that the survey was to allow public participation on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The preliminary exercise was one of identifying land types for development such as housing, business and industry. The new style plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF) has been designed to guide development and land use in the borough over the next 15 years. The Officer asked local residents for their views in the form of a questionnaire that was available at the meeting.

The Community Council **NOTED** the Officers comments.

**5. Waste Collection – Proposed Changes**

A presentation was received on the new waste management services. The new services would be rolled out in batches of 20,000 households from June 2008 to February 2009. Householders would still receive weekly waste collections, however increased emphasis and responsibility would be placed on the household to manage the production and disposal of their waste materials. It was reported that Oldham has the worst recycling record in the Greater Manchester area and the Council faced penalties of a £16million fine if it failed to meet Government recycling targets. The collection service, which processes the waste into compost, had proved a huge success in the recent pilot scheme for Shaw and Chadderton households doubling the re-cycling rates to 37 per cent.

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- It was noted that the changes had to be made to avoid expensive landfill tax and increase recycling rates.
- Oldham residents were reported to be throwing away up to 30,000 tonnes of left over food every year.
- Food waste will be collected on a weekly basis – Oldham is one of the first places to promote this type of service.
- Homes will have their weekly collection of non-recyclable waste cut to once a fortnight. This will alternate with two weekly bottle, can, plastic, paper, cardboard and garden waste collections.
- The basis of the scheme was to collect non-recyclable domestic waste (grey bin) one week and recyclable waste the alternate week (brown bin), with a new weekly food waste collection (green caddy and bin).
- A newly designed bag for paper recycling was demonstrated at the meeting.
- Officers stated that newspaper reports had not been encouraging but the improved recycling statistics spoke for themselves. Landfill tax will be avoided and services have been improved. It was explained, that Oldham was the only Authority to offer food waste services and subsequently received an excellent response from the public.
- Regarding the types of paper suitable for re-cycling, it was noted that there was a list on the newly designed bag to help residents.
- The number of re-cycling points across the Borough will be increasing.
- Officers explained that they were happy to work on a personal recycling/waste audit for any resident.
- It was explained that the Council would try and educate people who did not want to recycle or participate in the new system,
- Officers were asked when they would announce which areas were next to receive the new services. In response, it was explained that it would be within the next three to four weeks but areas not yet determined.
- Concerns were raised regarding the size of the food waste bin, commenting that it could be too small for the larger sized families. Officer Su Jones reported that, each individual household would be looked at accordingly.
- How would the scheme work for residents who reside in flats/apartments and have a communal bin area? In response, Su Jones commented that the Authority have worked with the residents who live in flats/apartments in the 'pilot' areas to ensure that the scheme was effective. The Authority

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would have to work with the caretakers of the properties and the waste collection would take place on a weekly basis.

- Concerns were expressed regarding the current procedure for bin collection, reporting that additional bags of rubbish were not being collected and that rubbish was either left to rot away or thrown back by 'bin men' into the newly emptied bin? Su Jones, confirmed that all extra bags would be taken away. Additionally, it was envisaged that the 'team' will be making notes of all the households not following the scheme and that the re-cycling points across the Borough would be increased.
- A Co-opted Member commented that, although she used the 'trade' waste facilities designed for use in a public house the premises above her property were domestic dwellings. Su Jones confirmed, she would look into individual cases to ensure the correct type of service would be provided.
- The Chair enquired if there would be a charge for damaged or stolen bins? Officers confirmed, no charge would apply for replacement bins but recommended residents mark their house numbers on all bins.
- In response to the question asked by the Chair, that elderly resident would have difficulty in moving the bins to the designated collection area. Su Jones, explained that assisted waste collection would be available providing that residents labelled their bins. Also, a database will be created containing residents details and that individual cases would be looked at.
- A resident asked who was funding the new bins? It was noted that the initial cost of the scheme would be sought by OMBC, officers confirming that in the long term the initial cost would be recuperated by the saving of £150 per tonne of waste.
- Reference was made to the size of the food re-cycling waste box, stating that it would be inadequate for the larger sized family. Sue Jones replied that they were happy to work on a personal re-cycling waste solution for any concerned resident.
- A local resident asked if Officers would be explaining the new re-cycling system to residents whereby English was not their first language? Su Jones confirmed that Officers with language skills would visit the households in question. Also, picture transcripts would be made available which would display instructions.
- A local resident expressed concern regarding fly tipping and enquired was there a budget in place? In response, the Officer confirmed that environmental crime would not be tolerated and that Enforcement Officers had been designated to control these issues.

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- Werneth residents were informed that they would soon be in receipt of the green garden waste bins.

The Chair thanked Sue Jones and Nikki Quigg for their informative presentation.

### 6. Street Lighting – PFI Bid

The representative for this item was not present at the meeting.

The Area Manager therefore informed the meeting of the initiative behind the proposals and informed all present at the meeting about the Oldham and Rochdale Joint Street Lighting PFI project. He explained, that both Oldham and Rochdale MBC had resolved to work together to prepare and implement a joint street lighting replacement and maintenance project funded through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) process which was a partnership between Central Government and a Private Company (the Service Provider). The Area Manager said, that because of a significant lack of investment over recent years had resulted in substantial backlog of replacement and maintenance of street lighting and as a result, lighting installations were deteriorating faster than they could be replaced. A large number of street lighting columns were over 30 years old and had exceeded their expected life cycle of 25 years.

- It was **AGREED** to bring this item back to a future meeting to discuss in more detail.

### 7. Festival of Diversity

Richard Grossick Festival Co-ordinator, was in attendance for this item and provided the Community with an insight to the events, which would be taking place during the festival period.

He explained that the event, the largest of its kind in the North-West would be taking place from 20<sup>th</sup> July, to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and its purpose was to invite people to come together through their involvement in community cultural events. The events that form the annual Festival showcase had been organised by local groups across the borough and had been functioning since 2003 facilitated by the

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Festival steering group. The Festival steering group was to promote events such as sport, dance, music, food and faith and help groups identify any funding that may be available. The launch of the Festival would be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 in Oldham Town Centre in and around the Parish Church.

The Community Council was asked to support the festival and anyone with ideas or were interested in becoming a volunteer were asked to contact the team on telephone no: 0161 624 1731 or visit the website: [www.festivalofdiversity.gov.uk](http://www.festivalofdiversity.gov.uk)

AGREED: That the report and comments be noted.

**The Chair thanked Richard for his presentation.**

### **8. Feedback from Area Manager**

The Area Manager confirmed that all current co-opted members of the Werneth Community Council would remain in service for the forthcoming year, but would look to replace co-opted members with a poor attendance record.

### **9. Public Question Time / Group Work**

**The following questions were received.**

Pcso Tazeer Ahmed presented the police update and reported the crime statistics for the Werneth area. The Officer confirmed crime had gone down by around a fifth in the Werneth area between February and March 2008.

**Current figures confirmed that:**

Reported offences of less serious woundings had decreased from fourteen to five incidents.

- Criminal damage down from thirty- three to twenty- five.
- Drug offences falling from ten to four.
- Domestic burglary from five to two.

On a more negative report robbery had risen from three to five and arson incidents increasing from zero to two.

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The officer reported that positive action had been taken against the problematic drivers of motor vehicles who had caused problems for residents around the Avant Hotel area reporting that the offenders had now been 'locked up'.

Concerns were raised regarding Anti-Social behaviour, which was occurring on a regular basis in the Oxford Street area caused by young drivers. It was reported that motorists were being abused by the young drivers who had and were causing major problems on Oxford Street. The problematic drivers were double parking and blocking the road around a bus stop, whereby young people were congregating and creating a major problem for other motorists and bus drivers. Residents requested that, as a matter of urgency the police and parking attendants tackled the problem. Inspector Humphries acknowledged that there was a problem within Oxford Street but that there had also been a lot of positive results. He expressed the importance of members of the public reporting vehicle registration numbers of the offending vehicles and that all calls would be treated in strict confidence.

**The Community Council noted these issues.**

### 10. Public Question Time.

- A local resident expressed concern regarding the unacceptable work that was being carried out on the homes under the Housing Market Renewal initiative in the Werneth area. He reported that the indicative allocations to certain properties were unacceptable also, children's play areas had been removed and not replaced and asked " why was Werneth different to other areas"?

The resident was asked to speak with the Area Manager at the close of the meeting.

- Another resident raised concerns regarding the damage that had been caused by builders that had been involved in the renovation of the properties within the Housing Market Renewal Scheme (HMR), reporting that the builders had damaged their property. Windows had been smashed, alarm boxes damaged by scaffolding and that the residents had been expected to pay for the damage to their property. Additionally lorries were causing damage to roads in the Worcester Street area. The Area Manager advised the resident to acquire requisites from both herself and other

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affected residents in writing and report back to him, with a view to writing to the offending companies.

- An Elected Member suggested that residents should note all their frustrations regarding the Housing Market Renewal programme and attend the meeting on 15th April 2008 at Christ Church to report the issues discussed.
- A local resident reported that the 'street lights' on Selwyn Street were not in working order and that the lights in Coppice Park had not been connected. She continued, that e-mails and telephone calls reporting the problem had been ignored and passed from department to department without resolution. The Area Manager advised the resident that United Utilities were responsible for the connection and to speak to Jahida Begum at the close of the meeting – contact number 0161 770 5160
- A Co-opted Member advised the Community Council that a charity 'waggon pull' had been arranged on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 from the Oxford Public House up to Chorlton Street, Manchester.
- A local resident commented, that there had been an absence of buses along Tamworth Street for the past six weeks due to the renovation work and that completion had been promised by the end of March 2008.

**The Community Council noted the issues.**

Date and Time of Next meeting: -

**19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at 6:00 pm, Freehold Community School, Sidmouth Street,  
off Block Lane, Werneth**