

Werneth Community Council

Date: Thursday 28 June 2007

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Freehold School Community School, Sidmouth Street, Werneth

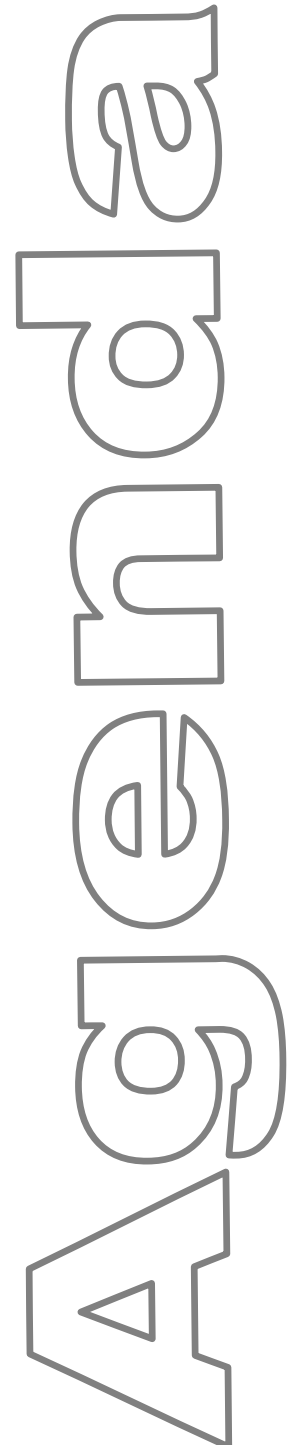
Notes: Contact Officer for this Agenda is
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**Please note that light refreshments will be available
from 5.30 pm**

Item No:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Introduction and welcome to Community Councils by Councillor Fida Hussain, Community Champion.
3. Election Process & Co-opted Members
4. Election of Chair
5. Nomination to Oldham Partnership
6. Future Meeting Dates and Venues to be decided
 - 12th September, 2007
 - 30th January, 2008
 - 26th March, 2008



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7. Feedback from Area Manager and Agencies
8. Facilitated Group Work to identify and prioritise key issues
9. Public Question Time

Agenda

Werneth Community Council

Date: Thursday 28th June 2007

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Freehold School Community School, Sidmouth Street, Werneth.

Present: Councillor F Hussain (Community Champion), Councillors S Akhtar & J Iqbal, Tim Date, (Service Director), Sue Stanney Constitutional Services, Inspector Humphries (GMP), PC Mark Clough (GMP), Saeed Ahmed (Youth Service), Jawaid Iqbal (FCH), Nyan Joshi (FCH), Peter Kiely (Highways & Engineering), Richard Outram (Gateways to Oldham), Margaret Tomay (Werneth/Freehold Care Project), Catherine Yates (Community Safety Officer), William Wills (Street Scene).

Item No:

1. Apologies for absence.

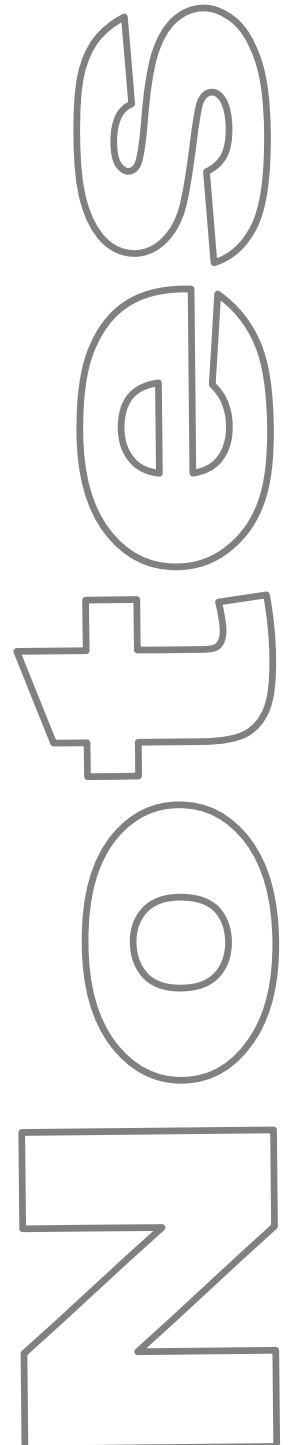
Mr Harold Jones – Co-optee Candidate

2. Introduction and welcome to Community Council by Councillor Fida Hussain Community Champion.

Councillor Hussain welcomed the Community Council and introduced himself and other Elected Members to the Meeting.

The Area Manager introduced himself, Community Champion, Senior Officer Champion and all Officers in attendance. All were briefed on the Werneth Community Council initiative, and its purpose, which had been piloted for the forthcoming year

The Area Manager explained:



Werneth Community Council

- a. The role and purpose of the Community Council.
- b. Community Council budget
- c. Community Calls for Action

He also made reference to the current situation of the Hartford Mill, and the current problems, which should diminish due to the building being subject to a compulsory purchase order.

3. Election Process & List of Potential Candidates

The Area Manager outlined to the Community Council, the co-optee selection process. He reported that, 10 applications for co-opted membership had been received and a further 4 vacancies remained. He added, that the selection process of co-opted members was to be determined by a vote by the Elected Members of the Community Council.

Following a short deliberation from Elected Members, the following candidates were elected to serve as Co-opted Members on Werneth Community Council: -

Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammed Alyas, Beverley Cornforth, Mary Fairhurst, Christine Goulden, Harold Jones, Fiaz Mohammed, Abdul Rashid, Beth Sutcliffe and Julie Walker.

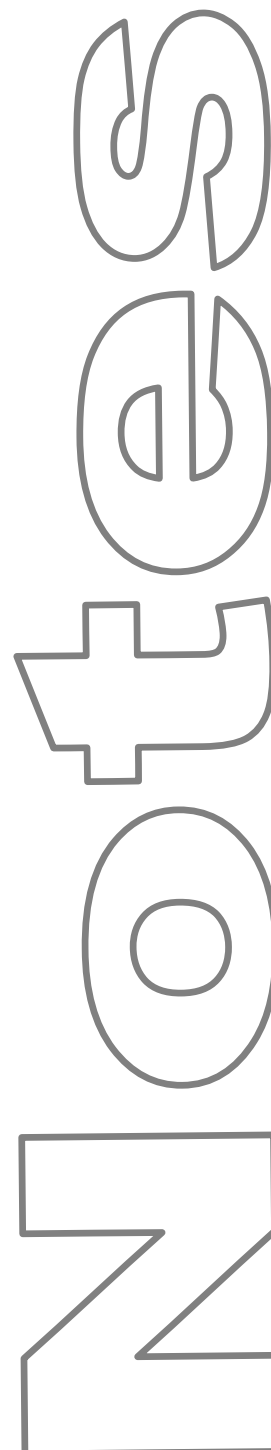
4. Election of Chair

Candidate List:

Mohammed Alyas, Christine Goulden and Fiaz Mohammed.

A brief presentation by the candidates was delivered to the meeting. The voting procedure took place. It was noted that two Co-opted Members abstained from the voting procedure.

The Area Manager reported that an equal vote for all three applicants had been received. He suggested as a solution, that one of the Co-opted Members nominated to represent the Oldham Partnership Board.



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It was agreed that Mohammed Alyas decline his application to be considered for Chair of Werneth Community Council.

A further vote took place

Mr Fiaz Mohammed elected as Werneth Community Council Chair for the 2007-08 Municipal Year.

5. Nomination to Oldham Partnership

Candidate List:

Mr Mohammed Alyas and Mrs Julie Walker

A brief presentation was received from the two nominees.

Mr Mohammed Alyas elected as Werneth Community Council representative on Oldham Partnership Board for the 2007 / 08 Municipal Year.

6. Future Meeting Dates and Venues:

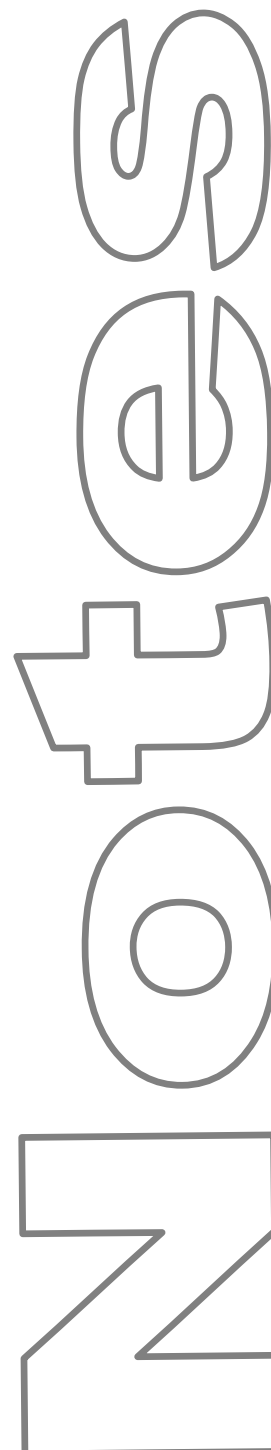
- a. 12th September, 2007
- b. 30th January, 2008
- c. 26th March, 2008

The future dates were noted. The Council agreed that meetings should be held in different areas of the ward.

7. Feedback from Area Manager and Agencies

The Neighbourhood Programme Manager of Housing Market Renewal Programme from Regeneration Directorate, gave an update on ongoing issues within the Werneth area. He reported that:

- Properties for sale and rent on Devon Street ready – July



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- Demolition of remaining properties on Devon Street – July
- Planning application for area fronting Spencer St – October
- HMR update – 216 private properties owned by Council of which 143 properties demolished

In response, a local resident reported his concern regarding the demolished land together with the felling of trees (Northumberland House). Damage had been caused to the grass verges to the rear access road to Hereford Street, and had not been repaired.

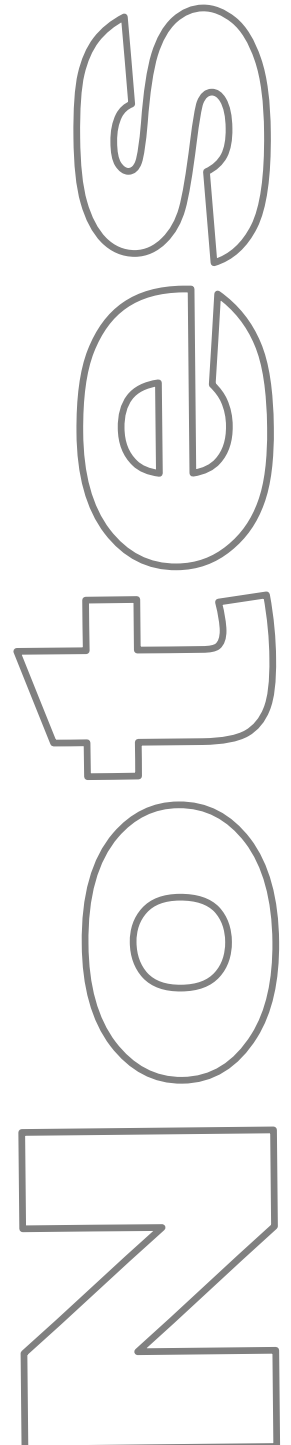
The same resident reported that, improvement works had only completed one half of Lincoln and Oxford Street; FCHO had left behind much damage whilst renovating council properties. He continued, this had been an ongoing problem, and that Senior Officers were aware of these issues, but had not responded. He also raised concern, that, a previous meeting had been arranged with HMR/OMBC Officers but had been cancelled due to some ill arrangement with the venue, and he was still awaiting feedback on unanswered questions.

It was agreed that a member of FCHO meet with the resident to go through the problems.

Officers representing FCHO outlined their action plan and reported that a 'fun day' on 11th August 2007 had been organised to hear resident's suggestion, to be held at Primrose Bank on Ashbourne Square.

An Elected Member made reference to the Werneth Forum meeting scheduled for 2nd July 2007. A report was to be submitted to Cabinet and a programme of development would be drawn up, dependable of the funding available. A member of the public, made reference to 'garden walls', and the front elevation of properties and that houses were being left 'unfinished'.

An Officer from OMBC confirmed that it was the owners' responsibility for repairs and not the Council.



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The following officers and agencies also reported to the meeting and each gave a brief profile of their activities.

Peter Kiely	- Highways & Engineering, OMBC
William Wills	- Street Scene, OMBC
Saeed Ahmed	- Youth Service, OMBC
Jawaid Iqbal	- FCHO
Nyan Joshi	- FCHO
Catherine Yates	- Community Safety Officer
Richard Outram	- Gateways to Oldham, OMBC
Margaret Tomany	- Werneth/Freehold Project Care

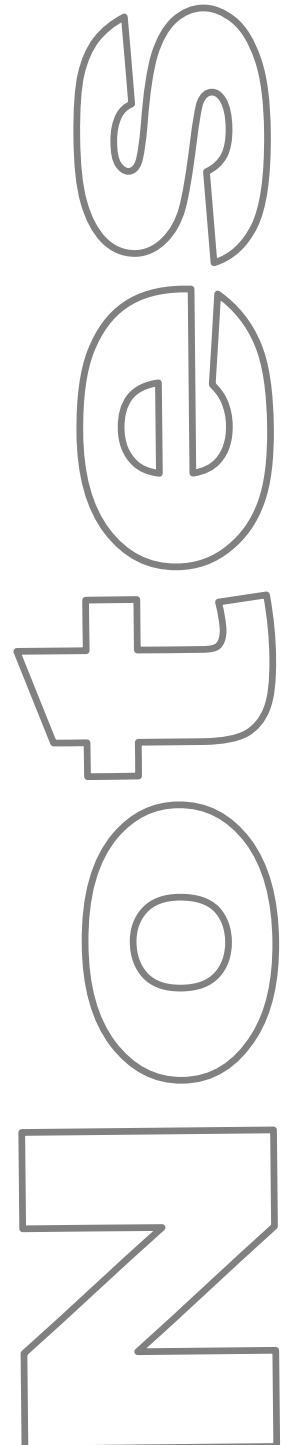
PC Mark Clough the Werneth Area Officer presented the latest Police Report, which listed the crime figures and incidents within the Werneth area.

The report confirmed that;

- 62 incidents compared to 100 (May)
- Fall in thefts from motor vehicles
- Fall in criminal damage
- Multi-agency work to combat anti-social behaviour
On glass bridge nr Sixth Form College
- Several arrests drugs / money
- Problems at private children's home reduced
- Surgeries 'Homewatch' promoted
- Action against prostitution

8. Facilitated Group Work to identify and prioritise key issues

The meeting broke into grouped workshop sessions, with a view to identifying current issues to be discussed within the context of the meeting.



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The key issues that were identified are as follows:-

i. **Frederick Street / Newport Street**

- Litter
- Anti-social behaviour

ii. **Oxford Street**

- Footpaths in bad state of repair
- Worcester / Sidmouth Street / tree felling
- Security Camera's needed

iii. **Block Lane / Wiltshire Road**

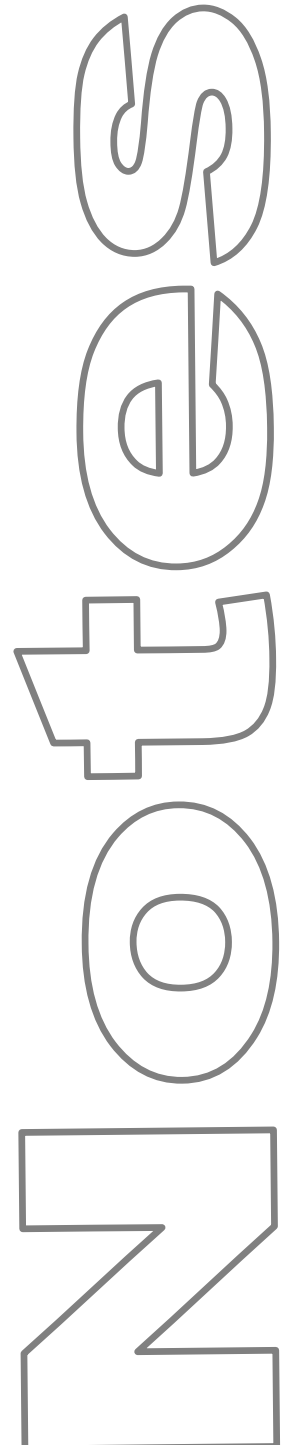
- Concerns relating to railway metrolinks
- Removal of trees / effects on wildlife
- Illegal parking on Oxford / Windsor Road
- Unemployment 16/25 year olds
- Drugs / gangs / destroying area (Christ Church, Carlisle St, Worcester St, Werneth Park areas)
- Need to educate / respect the area
- Too many Fast food outlets / Private Hire Taxis
- Police support for Taxi drivers ' Taxi Watch'

iv. **Werneth Cricket Club**

- Anti-social behaviour / football on bowling green
- Damage to pitch / Bowling Green / building
- Verbal abuse / drugs / gangs 5pm to 12.00 midnight, 14+

v. **St Johns Area**

- Youths smoking cannabis
- Young people congregating on spare land on Northumberland St.
- Lack of facilities for young people



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Summary

The Area Manager summarised, briefly concluding that, anti-social behaviour was a major factor throughout the area, and the need of extra services of enforcement was imperative.

9. Public Question Time

A member of the public raised concerns about the continual drug dealing around the 'Hare and Hounds Pub. He continued, that when the youths were challenged a barrage of wreckage followed, properties and cars smashed. It was an on going problem and the Police had not responded, it had been a major problem in this area for over twenty years.

Inspector Humphries confirmed, that there was a constant vigilance on this area, and a number of under cover operations were proactive.

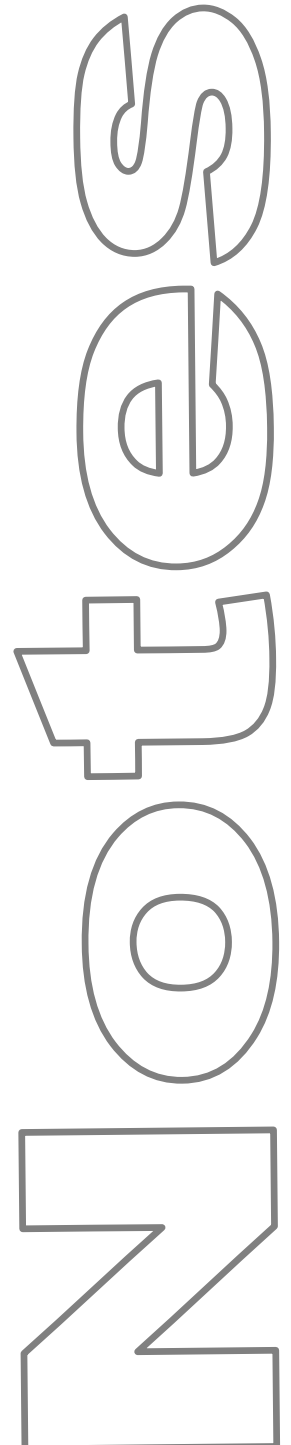
A local landlady made reference to the crime stoppers (Pub Watch) initiative for licensed premises.

PC Clough reported that, at the present time, only the Hollinwood area had membership. Werneth did not qualify due to deficient numbers.

Inspector Humphries confirmed that, he would initiate a pub watch scheme for the Werneth area and would forward the necessary details.

Discussion took place, pubs to be included within the proposed scheme;

- Bridgewater
- Smutt Inn
- The Oxford



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A Member of the public raised concerns regarding the unsatisfactory level of Police response to reported incidents. An Elected Member stated that, residents needed to report all incidents as they were logged and funding was granted accordingly.

In response to a request for cleaning up the area, the FCHO Officer advised that a 'skip' would be available in order for residents to clear rubbish, which would be available for two days on 18th & 19th July 2007, to be sited outside the Post Office.

An Officer of the Council reported, that a maintenance plan had been devised to address specific problems, such as gutters, potholes, but parked vehicles posed problems. It was agreed that a leaflet be designed to remind residents to clear roads to allow necessary work.

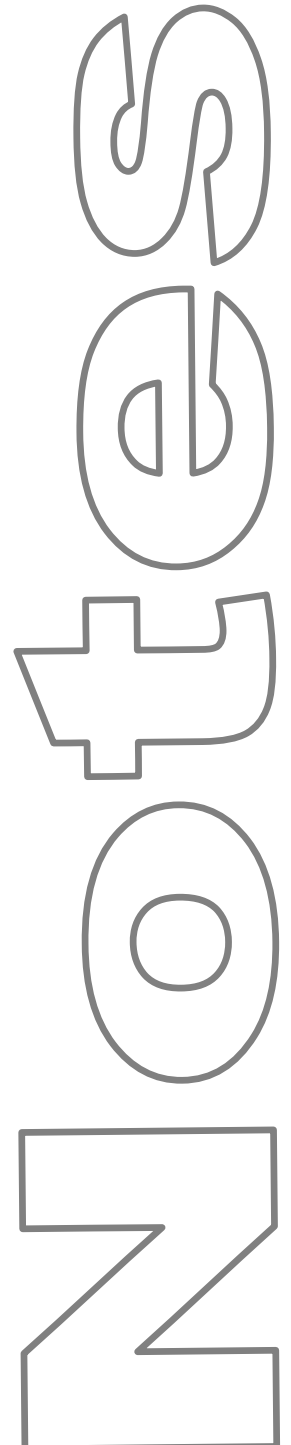
A local resident raised concerns about the drainage system and flooding on Wolverton Avenue / Grange Street. An Officer of Environmental Services was asked to take further details.

In response, an Elected Member reported that, street cleaners and sweepers were unable to thoroughly clean due to the parked vehicles.

An Elected Member also reported that the new houses on Lees Street, on new Coppice Park had not yet had their street lights connected. An Officer of the Council agreed to look into the matter.

A Member of the public raised the issue of young people attending college for 'construction training / apprenticeship schemes', and after gaining accreditation could not find work. He asked, if it would be possible to approach local companies with a view to taking on apprentices for locally trained people.

The Community Champion stated that, it would be feasible to invite 'Junction 21' to the next scheduled HMR meeting to discuss the



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possibilities of engaging locally trained people. It was envisaged there could be a problem as they were Rochdale based.

An Officer of the Council agreed to action this matter.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm

