

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2010  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of relevant issues which have arisen since the last meeting.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives healthier and safer.

## 2 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LIAISON MEETING

2.1 A liaison meeting was held on 25 March 2010. A copy of the minutes are attached as Appendix A to this report.

## 3 FOOD SAFETY 2009/10 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.1 As required by the Food Safety Plan, I need to advise you that the current annual inspection programme did not achieve the annual target expected in 2009/10. Unfortunately, there has been a much higher number of 'significant' gastro-enteric events within the Borough, since April 2009. The Food Team has been required to investigate 10 incidents involving between 20 and 50 persons reported with clinical symptoms, which is well above the number we normally investigate. In addition, 3 potential prosecutions are being pursued and 2 major accidents. Furthermore, a number of significant investigations involving unsatisfactory food sampling results have also had to be pursued. This work naturally took priority and by necessity involves significant officer time.

## 4 CLITHEROE MARKET – FRIDAY COLLECTORS MARKET

4.1 There has been considerable interest from Ribble Valley residents in reestablishing the 'Free' Friday Collectors Market on the same terms as last year. Discussions were held with the Chairman in early April when it was agreed to reinstate the offer of stalls 'free of charge' to Ribble Valley residents for an initial 3 months and then for the matter to be reviewed and consideration be given to extending the offer for a further 3 months.

4.2 Attendance has been similar to last year with up to 14 stalls being occupied normally each week.

## 5 'SMALL PARTICULATES' AIR QUALITY MONITORING SURVEY - PIMLICO

5.1 I am pleased report that we have received offers of financial assistance to help fund and undertake the above monitoring exercise from Hanson Cement, Tarmac and Johnson Matthey.

5.2 However, Tarmac has recently advised us that due to the recession, they intend to mothball quarrying and stone crushing at Bankfield Quarry for the foreseeable future and import the necessary stone from their Salford Quarry near Cracoe, Grassington until further notice.

5.3 The principal reason for the survey being necessary was the relocation of the crushing plant within Tarmac's Bankfield Quarry from the quarry bottom to nearer the entrance. As such, the particulate monitoring will now be postponed until stone crushing resumes on site.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

6.1 I am pleased to report that a second Environmental Health annual newsletter was sent out to all businesses within the Borough along with the Business Rate demand. A copy of the newsletter is attached as Appendix B to this report.

## 7 FLOOD PROTECTION PROPERTY GRANTS

7.1 I am sorry to report that there has not been much progress achieved with engaging with occupiers of eligible properties. All properties within the Flood Warning Areas who may be eligible have received an information leaflet asking for expressions of interest.

7.2 Local councillors have also been assisting and making enquiries. To date we have only received 7 enquiries/expressions of interest. Geoff Lawson and Wayne Jones of our Building Control Service have undertaken an initial structural survey of one of the properties in Ribchester.

7.3 The Environment Agency have been kept aware of our situation and are keen to see progress with this project. As a final initiative it is now intended to make a direct approach to selected properties to achieve the required number of 23.

## 8 DOG WASTE BINS – UPDATE

8.1 I am pleased to report that a consultation letter has recently been sent to all Town/Parish Councils asking for expression of interest and their suggestions as to suitable locations. Sufficient funding has not been identified within the environmental health budget but an application has been submitted for assistance with this project for an LAA Performance Reward Grant.

## 9 SLAIDBURN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY – UPDATE

9.1 I am pleased to report that this project is progressing and United Utilities have submitted an application for the appropriate planning permission, which will hopefully be determined during the next cycle of Planning Committee meetings.

9.2 Subject to approval, work on site is expected to commence in July.

## 10 UNITED UTILITIES WATER UNDERTAKING – DILWORTH, DUNSOP & TOSSIDE

10.1 The Council has received notification from the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) that United Utilities has submitted an undertaking to secure compliance with the European Community Drinking Water Directive Regulations in respect of the possible risk of exceeding the standard for lead in relation to the above supplies.

- 10.2 The undertaking requires the company to undertake a number of short & medium term measures including to:
- Develop and implement enhanced monitoring for lead, to consult Health Protection Agency were failure found and advice to consumers;
  - Target lead communication pipe replacement for registered child care facilities, and long length communication pipes in 'high' risk areas;
  - Replace lead communication pipes where not subject to plumbosolvency control;
  - Target lead communication pipes replacement on failure of 10ug/l standard;
  - Target lead communication pipe replacement in high risk areas as part of external meter installation at boundary;
  - Target communications to at risk groups on the benefits of lead pipe replacement;
  - Devise a method for providing customers with a risk based assessment of their lead risk.
- 10.3 United Utilities will be required to submit a report every 6 months and provide final report by 30 April 2015.
- 10.4 Lead is naturally reducing in the environment eg in 1993, road transport was a significant source releasing 8,000 tonnes per annum into the environment, due to changes in fuel composition, road traffic is now considered an insignificant source. At the annual United Utilities Local Authority liaison meeting in February, United Utilities asked local authorities to reconsider their housing grant allocation, and where possible, to restore provision of grant assistance for the replacement of lead services for the next few critical years. Unfortunately, water in the North West is naturally acidic and soft, it is estimated that about 40% of properties in the NW are served by lead water pipes. Where a supply suffers plumbosolvency, the service becomes a major source of lead to consumers.
- 10.5 United Utilities are in partnership with the Liverpool John Moores University in developing information for high risk groups eg infants and children. More information can be obtained from [www.leadinwater.info](http://www.leadinwater.info).

#### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

For further information please ask for James Russell, extension 4466.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Undertaking submitted by United Utilities Water plc to improve Drinking Water Quality – Drinking Water Inspectorate

The risks of lead in water – 'Do the best for your Kids' - [www.leadinwater.info](http://www.leadinwater.info)