

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 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 FLOOD PROTECTION PROPERTY GRANTS

2.1 I am pleased to report that there has been considerable progress achieved since my last report in May 2010. 21 properties have now been identified as eligible for grant assistance and are in agreement in principle to proceeding with grant applications and undertaking the necessary works.

2.2 Geoff Lawson and Wayne Jones of our Building Control Service, with assistance from Flood Consult, a specialist flood protection consultancy with considerable experience in Cumbria, dealing with DEFRA Flood Grants, have undertaken initial structural surveys of all the eligible properties in Ribchester and Whalley and are in the process of completing the necessary property protection reports.

2.3 A 'Flood Fair' has also been organised to be undertaken on 10 September in Whalley Methodist Church Hall to engage and inform the wider public and businesses who occupy premises within the Flood Warning areas of Whalley and Ribchester. This will be a multi agency approach with representatives of Ribble Valley, Environment Agency, National Flood Forum and JT Atkins, a Builders Merchants from Penrith, who are very experienced and specialise with advising on flood protection and who stock and supply the majority of approved 'kite marked' Flood Protection equipment available from national manufacturers and have agreed to provide more independent advice.

2.4 If this initiative proves successful, the intention will be to arrange a similar event in Clitheroe, probably in the New Year.

3 CLITHEROE CEMETERY EXTENSION – UPDATE

3.1 I am pleased to report that the purchase of the adjacent land is progressing, albeit slowly, and John Gorton is hopeful to exchange contract and complete the purchase in the near future.

4 CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL MARKET - FEEDBACK

- 4.1 I am pleased to report that the general feedback from Clitheroe Market traders is that the Clitheroe Food Festival street market proved successful with significantly increased foot fall.
- 4.2 I also wish to recognise the significant ongoing support by Nigel Haworth of Northcote Manor, who as part of the days organised arrangements agreed to attend Clitheroe Market and this time presented a 'summer salad' food preparation demonstration. Nigel is passionate about the need for and maintaining a future for markets as a source of quality locally produced foods.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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