

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 27 March 2014 starting at 6.30pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	C Ross
I Brown	G Scott
P Dowson	S Swarbrick
R Hargreaves	D Taylor
L Rimmer	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

K Winstanley	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
F Priest	Longridge
S Rawsthorne	Paythorne & Newsholme
S Bridge	Read
T Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
G Molloy	Simonstone
R K Jackson	Waddington
K Staines	Waddington
A Bristol	West Bradford
M J Huyton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
J Brown	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive and Head of Regeneration and Housing.

Also in attendance: Sandra Fox – Public Health Co-ordinator (Lancashire County Council)

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors R Newmark and I Sayers and from the following Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
E Mellor	Bowland Forest (Lower)
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearing	Clitheroe

R Assheton	Downham
P Entwistle	Grindleton
A Hutchinson	Hothersall
A Steer	Osbaldeston
A Davies	Read
A Ormond	Ribchester
D Peat	Simonstone
J Bremner	Wilpshire

697 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

a) 589 – Policing in the Ribble Valley

The Chairman reported that Mellor Brook Police Station had now closed even though the village hall had offered to subsidise its future use. She also reported that Mellor would have a new community beat manager with Alison Hargreaves replacing Jo Dolan.

b) 592 – Proposed withdrawal of subsidies bus services

The Chief Executive reported that Lancashire County Council had recently announced that they would not now be withdrawing a number of evening and weekend bus services in the Ribble Valley. Instead they would look at the viability of each bus service on a route by route basis.

798 PUBLIC HEALTH IN LANCASHIRE

The Chairman introduced Sandra Fox, Public Health Co-ordinator for Lancashire County Council who gave a detailed presentation on the changes in public health, which had happened as a result of the Public Health and Social Care Act 2012.

With the demise of primary care trusts in 2013, public health had been split between Lancashire County Council, Public Health England and NHS England. Lancashire itself was split into three locality teams with the majority of Ribble Valley being located in east locality. However, Longridge and Chipping were located in central locality and in addition certain parts of Ribble Valley south east (Wilpshire, Mellor and Whalley) were administered by Blackburn with Darwen.

Lancashire County Council Public Health worked collaboratively with clinical commissioning groups and the Borough Council on a variety of issues including substance misuse, workplace health, smoking cessation and children and young people services.

Lancashire County Council Public Health provided five mandatory services:

- Promoting health for local population
- National child management service
- NHS health checks
- Ensuring NHS commissioners views for public health
- Commissioning comprehensive open access sexual health service

She then went on to explain the composition and purpose of the Local Health and Wellbeing Board, which identified health needs and assets for the population and also identified the priorities to meet those needs. It co-ordinated the plans of the Board with those of other partner agencies and promoted the joining up of commissioning delivery. There were four health and wellbeing strategic outcomes which were:

- maternal and child health
- mental health and wellbeing
- long term conditions
- improving the health of individual old people

She then compared the countywide functions of Public Health Lancashire with the more local priorities provided in the three localities. Finally, she highlighted the six priorities for east locality which were as follows:

- building individual and community resilience
- dementia friendly communities
- health and housing
- more active more often
- food, poverty and sustainability
- substance misuse including alcohol and tobacco

She commented that in Ribble Valley a good deal of this work was already ongoing and that there were very good working relationships between Public Health Lancashire and the Borough Council.

Members then discussed the presentation in some detail and asked that it be made available for Parish Councils.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing also commented favourably on the good working relationship enjoyed by the Borough Council with Public Health Lancashire and he stated that there would be a real role for not only this Council in the public health agenda but also parishes who would become key players when it came to local delivery in communities.

RESOLVED: That Sandra Fox be thanked for her informative presentation.

699 SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN RURAL AREAS

Committee considered an update on the proposed Fibre Broadband services available through BT/Openreach commercial rollout and its effects on the Ribble

Valley. The report highlighted that high speed Fibre Broadband was being rolled out across Lancashire between 2013 and the end of 2015. The network would be delivered in seven phases and the first phase had now been delivered and completion was expected by the end of quarter 4 in 2014/2015. Phase 1 had delivered coverage in much of east Lancashire including parts of the Ribble Valley.

Around 40% of premises in the Ribble Valley would receive Fibre Broadband services through BT/Openreach commercial rollout. This was predominantly through the Clitheroe and Longridge exchanges. The village of Chatburn and Sawley had seen the arrival of high speed Fibre Broadband in their villages. Approximately 50% of premises in the Ribble Valley should receive coverage under the Superfast Lancashire Public/Private Partnership Programme with all remaining premises being guaranteed at least a stable 2M/bit's services by the end of the rollout programme in early 2015.

The 3% of businesses unable to access high speed broadband would predominantly be in the rural areas and concern was still being expressed by businesses that the download speeds they were currently achieving were not sufficient for them to successfully run their businesses.

This concern was echoed by Members of Committee and the concerns were underlined that the speeds being offered were very slow and there was real concern that the programme would not be delivered, particularly in rural areas. The Head of Regeneration and Housing also echoed these concerns about the speed and coverage of the rollout and he urged parishes to pass on any concerns they may have on this matter and he would take it up with BT/Openreach on their behalf.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

700 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

The Chief Executive informed Members that Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting held on 25 March 2014, had agreed that the Council would mark the anniversary of the start of World War 1 in the following ways:

- a civic service to be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Clitheroe on 3 August 2014
- the planting of an Oak tree in every village in the borough
- poppy seeds to be handed out to every school within the Ribble Valley

He explained that where parishes had two or more villages, additional trees could be supplied. Similarly, in the cases of Clitheroe and Longridge, which were larger areas, then the Town Council were encouraged to identify more than one site and these would be considered. A plaque and protective fencing would also be provided.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Community Development Officer reported that although the timetable of meetings had been agreed at Policy and Finance Committee earlier in the week, he did not have the date of the next meeting to hand. He did promise however to write to all Parish Clerks with the dates for all the meetings in the 2014/2015 municipal year.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Colin Hirst (414503).