

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 9 June 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (from Agenda item 1) (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Scott
A Brown	R Sherras
T Hill	D Smith
M Robinson	D Taylor
I Sayers	N C Walsh

Also in attendance: Councillor G Mirfin.

Parish Representatives:

T Austin	Billington & Langho
M Walsh	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe
P Robinson	Clitheroe
J Hargreaves	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
R Beacham	Longridge
M Everett	Longridge
S Rosthorn	Newsholme & Paythorne
M Beattie	Newton
P Young	Ramsgreave
S Bridge	Read
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
J Hilton	Waddington
D Parker	Waddington
M Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing and Partnership Officer.

Also in attendance: Rebecca Demaine – Head of Commissioning East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Mel Ormesher – Head of Asset Management Lancashire County Council (7pm).

74 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Parish Councillor David Peat (Simonstone) be appointed as Chairman of this Committee for 2016/2017.

75 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Doreen Taylor be appointed as Vice Chairman of this Committee for 2016/2017.

76 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillor Lesley Graves and from the following Parish Representatives:

H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
B Green	Chipping
R Assheton	Downham
I Forrester	Hothersall
A Steer	Osbaldeston
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
A Ormand	Ribchester
G Meloy	Simonstone
K Hodson	Slaidburn
J Brown	Whalley

77 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

79 NEW MODELS IN PRIMARY CARE

The Chairman introduced Rebecca Demaine, the Head of Commissioning at East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group who gave a presentation on proposals to add to primary care provision. A survey and stakeholder event had been conducted, identifying priorities of access to appointments and service in primary care, access to information about services, and support for self-care and self-management. From this a set of guiding principles had been established to inform development and delivery of services.

The proposed model of hubs was explained, together with an indication that general practitioners in the Ribblesdale area perceived lower demand than elsewhere for extra week day hours, but more at weekends, particularly on Saturday morning at Clitheroe Hospital. The hubs would be available to all the East Lancashire population, with full medical records being accessible.

The proposals were currently subject to consultation, expiring on 8 July 2016, with forms being available from surgeries or online from ELCCG.

There were a number of questions, particularly with regard to cross border issues with other CCGs in Lancashire (applicable to Longridge residents and those neighbouring Blackburn with Darwen) and Yorkshire. Rebecca noted the

concerns which are particularly applicable in Ribble Valley, and would check the position with other CCGs.

RESOLVED: That Committee thank Rebecca for her informative presentation.

80 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICED PROPERTIES

The Chairman introduced Mel Ormesher, the Head of Asset Management at Lancashire County Council, who gave a presentation on the proposals that had been issued for consultation with regard to delivery of services from public access buildings by Lancashire County Council. The consultation ran from 18 May 2016 to 14 August 2016, with the final decision being made in September 2016 and implementation on 1 October 2016.

Changes to management of the property portfolio were part of the proposed programme of changes at LCC, with an intention to achieve savings by the proposal to reduce the number of public access buildings from 238 to 132. She set out the proposals for dual or multiple use of buildings, and the factors used in determining from where it was proposed to deliver the services. These multi-functional buildings, or neighbourhood centres, would be supplemented by other services including the mobile library, home library visits and the County Council's digital services.

She set out what facilities were proposed to be retained in the Ribble Valley, and identified that some services may be relocated to other locations, including Pendleton Brook Centre services being provided from Enfield in Hyndburn.

Questionnaires to respond to the consultation could be obtained from LCC buildings in the county, and also accessed on line. There was an opportunity for organisations to register an interest in taking on buildings, for which property packs would be issued in June 2016, following which an assessment would be made on the basis of business cases submitted.

Several representatives asked questions or put forward points which were noted. These highlighted difficulties for accessibility for residents in remote areas and for vulnerable and older people to services being provided outside the borough, especially in view of the recent reductions to public transport.

Exacerbation of current issues of rural isolation were emphasised, as well as the absence of provision to the east and north of Clitheroe. A number of speakers referred to the inclusion of Whalley as a key service centre in the Core Strategy, which had been supported by the Planning Inspectorate, and that the removal of services from Whalley would affect the settlements of Wilpshire, Langho, Clayton-le-Dale and Billington, as well as surrounding villages.

The need for digital services and adequate broadband was reiterated, prior to the reduction of public access services, including the requirement for highways to facilitate the laying of fibre connections.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing established that the LCC Equality Impact Assessments were available on the LCC website, and drew attention to

the strong network of village halls in the Ribble Valley. LCC would be open to receive information in this respect.

The Chairman summarised the concerns expressing the view that a loss of vitality in villages has an impact on physical and mental wellbeing of the residents. He expressed a view that this Committee should establish a working group to respond to the consultation with perhaps 6 representatives, each representing a geographical group of parishes.

The Chief Executive supported this view, identifying the range of issues at Parish level and offered the services of the Head of Regeneration and Housing to chair the group, supported by his team.

The Chair asked that Parishes in each geographical area co-ordinate with each other and put forward the name of their proposed representative on the working group to the Head of Regeneration and Housing by Friday, 17 June 2016.

It was stressed that this combined approach should be supplemental to and not replace the opportunity for each individual Parish Council to respond to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That Committee thank Mel for her presentation.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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