

East Rural Network

Minutes of a meeting of the East Rural Network held on Wednesday 25th June 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
in the Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank

Present

Cllr. J. Slater (Chair)
Mrs. D. Dyer – Hoddlesden Resident
Mrs. D. Hornby – Parochial Church Council
Sergeant K. Sledge
Rev. G. Mumford – St. Paul's CE Church
Mrs. L. Mason – Eccleshill Parish Council

Mrs. P. Smith - Yate and Pickup Bank Parish Council
Ms. S. Smith - Yate and Pickup Bank Resident
Mrs. T. McCluskey – Access Representative
Mr. G. Wild – Yate and Pickup Bank Parish Resident
Mrs. S. Hughes - Eccleshill Parish Council

Apologies Mr. M. Skipper Mr. B. Clarke Mr. N. Leadly

Officers Ms G. Kinloch - Blackburn with Darwen BC

Action

1.0 Purpose of Meeting

1.1 Councillor Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the group of its purpose: to work jointly on projects and issues for the benefit of the area.

2.0 Police Update

2.1 Sergeant Karen Sledge introduced herself to the group and explained her role as part of the Darwen Neighbourhood Policing Team. She covers the patch with colleague Sergeant Cisco and Police Special Community Officers.

2.2 The police are currently monitoring suspicious activity in the vicinity of Eccleshill Gardens. It is believed certain properties may be being targeted and residents are being asked to report sightings of suspicious vehicles. Information can be reported to the Team at Darwen Town Hall on 222151. However, this number is not manned 24/7. If the resident has any concerns about the activity being witnessed then they should ring 999. Residents should be aware that ringing the general police number may result in them being transferred to another division. This is to ensure calls are dealt with as soon as possible but does mean the operator may not know the area.

2.3 Sgt Sledge asked if residents had any ideas about tackling the current incidents could they please pass them on to her. For example, is there a neighbourhood watch that could be strengthened?

2.4 Sgt Sledge also reported on recent activity to record vehicle speeds in the area. Readings taken on a Sunday afternoon proved to be higher than those taken during the week and of 20 vehicles targeted 20 were exceeding the speed limit on Hoddlesden Road, some to such an extent that a check was made that the speed limit was, in fact, 30 mph. This is of considerable concern to the police. More officers are being trained to use hand-held speed recording devices to enable more community checks to be carried out.

2.5 Mr. Wild queried why the police couldn't enforce a 20 mph limit. It was explained that legislation allowed the police to enforce speed limits of 30 mph or above. There is nothing in law to enable them to enforce a 20 mph limit, which is normally introduced via Council byelaws. Police support for 20 mph limits in the area was requested.

2.6 General discussion raised a number of issues that Councillor Slater will take up with Highways.

2.7 East Rural residents are welcome to contact Sgt Sledge for advice and information.

2.8 Members thanked Sgt Sledge for attending.

All

JS

Action

3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of 2nd April 2008 were accepted as a correct record subject to noting the following:

Para 4.5: The paragraph implies that the proposal to restore the old Saxon Road between Standhill Farm and the Millennium Green has been abandoned by the Network. This is not the case.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Old Saxon Road: In making the observation that the Saxon Road project has not been abandoned Mrs. McCluskey queried why the path had been allowed to deteriorate in the first place. Councillor Slater will take up the issue with the Rights of Way Officer. Mrs. Dyer agreed to find out if the Heritage Lottery Fund would be a suitable source of funding for the work.

JS
DD

3.2 Road Surfaces: Mrs. McCluskey reported that a stretch of road had been resurfaced but did not provide proper grip for horses. This is in spite of the issue having been raised at the last Network meeting.

3.3 Public Bridleway: Mrs. McCluskey raised the issue of a public bridleway sign that now read concessionary bridleway and queried why this had happened. Councillor Slater will raise with the Public Rights of Way Officer.

JS

3.4 ERCYA Newsletters: These are still not being received in some parts of Hoddlesden, which is a cause for concern for Mrs. Dyer as residents are not being kept informed about what is going on and will not find out about the forthcoming AGM. Councillor Slater will pursue the issue.

JS

4.0 Project Update

4.1 Land Ownership: Former Vernon Carus land is still under review and therefore no progress has been possible on cleaning up eyesore sites around Hoddlesden. Mrs. Dyer will provide a position statement for the next meeting.

DD

4.2 Electricity Sub-Station: Mrs. Dyer managed to speak to someone at United Utilities who agreed that the sub-station was an eyesore and should be cleaned up. The site now looks far better. Members congratulated Mrs. Dyer on a very successful outcome.

4.3 Local Walks: The sub-group has met and routes are currently being walked and audited. A list of problems will be compiled for submission to the Rights of Way Officer. Michael Counter of the Rambles Association advised that short, local walks are usually most appreciated and the sub-group has agreed to focus on the 4 shorter walks.

Mrs. Dyer has made some enquiries about printing costs. Members provided other contacts to ensure a competitive price is obtained.

DD

The sub-group will meet again on Wednesday 9th July at 7:30 in the Rosins to progress the project. It was agreed representatives from Eccleshill who are also working on rights of way issues should be invited to the meeting.

(Note: A room has been booked at the Rosins for the meeting.)

Councillor Slater requested an update after the sub-group meeting

Sub-
Group

5.0 Members' Updates

Eccleshill Parish Council: There will be no fun day at Eccleshill this year. The Parish Council is working well and there is a good turn out at meetings. With

respect to the children's playground the Parish Council is waiting to find out if the area will benefit from a funding allocation made to the Borough Council for children's play.

Action

5.1 Yate and Pickup Bank Parish Council: the Breathing Spaces project is progressing well. Gates are being installed and bird boxes are being constructed. The 2 benches donated to the project are not in good enough repair to be used in a public space and other options are currently being considered.

Ms Smith asked if dog or litter bins could be installed in or close to the site. Councillor Slater explained that it is not normal practice for the Council to provide bins in such situations but she would be speak to the relevant personnel.

JS

It was noted that Mr. Wild has stepped down as Chair of Yate and Pickup bank Parish Council. That position has been filled by Mrs. Pat Smith.

5.3 Parochial Church Council: A clean up of Hoddlesden Road and around the church will take place before the picnic on the Millennium Green. The Summer Fayre, a joint venture between the church and ERYCA will be held on 5th July from 11-3pm.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Culverts: Councillor Slater has asked the Direct of Environment to check out the culverts at the Millennium Green and at Cooper Riggs. Some investigative work has been undertaken but it is not known whether it is yet complete.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Network will be held on **Wednesday 10th September 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank**