

East Rural Network

Minutes of a meeting of the East Rural Network held on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank

Present

Mrs. D. Hornby – Parochial Church Council (In the Chair)	Mr. S. Hartley – Business Representative
Mrs. D. Dyer – Hoddlesden Resident	Mrs. S. Skipper – Blacksnape Representative
Mrs. T. McCluskey – Access Representative	Mr. B. Clarke – Millennium Green Trust
Mrs. J. Taylor – Blacksnape Resident	Mr. N. Leadly – Hoddlesden Post Office
Mr. I. Parkinson – Pickup Bank Resident	Mr. D. Hughes – Waterside Resident
Mr. G. Cooper – Waterside Resident	Mr. M. Cooper – Waterside Resident
Mrs. S. Robinson – Waterside Resident	Mrs. J. Graham – Waterside Resident
Mr. M. Gosling – Waterside Resident	

Apologies

Cllr. J. Slater	Rev. G. Mumford	Mrs. P. Smith	Ms S. Smith
Mr. M. Skipper	Mr. G. Wild	Mr. C. McIlveen	Mrs. B. Bickerton

Officers Ms G. Kinloch - Blackburn with Darwen BC Mrs. H. Fergusson - Blackburn with Darwen BC

1.0 Local Walks

1.1 Mrs. Fergusson, Neighbourhood Learning Planning Development Officer, explained how the Waterside group had come together and what it was trying to achieve. Many people in the village enjoy walking and the aim is to produce short guides to local routes with some information about local history and points of interest. The group is currently checking the routes and liaising with residents to let them know what they are planning to do. They are working with Lorraine Mellodey, Assistant Public Rights of Way Officer, who receives reports about missing stiles or marker posts and will speak to residents who have objected to the project. Group members will also be attending a Local History Course to help with that aspect of the project.

1.2 The Waterside Group has met with the Network's Walking Sub-Group. It is clear that both groups have similar projects and that there is scope to work together. Waterside reps are willing to walk the Waterside route proposed by East Rural members and two others selected by the Sub-Group and report any rights of way problems to Lorraine Mellodey. They are also willing to speak to local people about the route. Mrs. Fergusson agreed to raise the issue of dog-stiles with Lorraine.

1.3 The Waterside Group would, however, like to progress production of their walks leaflet as a distinct project because they have identified sufficient routes to make up a separate publication. It was suggested that by using a standard presentation template each area could produce walks leaflets at intervals. Producing leaflets in batches might also help with applications for funding from small pots. It was noted that Waterside's walks will also be put on the web.

1.4 With respect to funding the Lloyds Leach Trust has indicated that it might be interested in funding the project and the Waterside Group are investigating possible sources with John Beck of the CVS. Local community funds are likely to be the most appropriate sources.

1.5 It was agreed that the Walks Sub-Group should meet again with the Waterside to discuss how best to progress production of the leaflets. This meeting will be held at the Rosins on Thursday 6th November 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

1.6 Members of the Waterside Group were thanked for their attendance and contribution. Some of the members left the meeting at this point.

Action

Waterside
Group

HF

Walks Sub
Group

2.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the meeting of 25th June 2008 were accepted as a correct record.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Suspicious Vehicles: These are still being spotted in the area and thefts are still occurring. The police remain actively involved in the area.

3.2 Old Saxon Road: Mrs. Dyer is currently investigating potential funding sources. The Heritage Lottery Fund, the Lost Ways Project and SITA's landfill tax may all be possible sources. The drawback with the last, however, is the need to find the 11% Contributing Third Party Payment. Current estimates for the work are around £75,000, which would therefore require a substantial third party contribution. It was nevertheless agreed that the project should be pursued. Margaret Aicken, Public Rights of Way Officer, will be asked to obtain formal estimate for the work

GK

3.3 Bridleway: A response was requested on the issue of the bridleway sign that has now been changed to a concessionary bridleway.

GK

4.0 Project Update

4.1 Land Ownership: No information is being provided by the company that has purchased the former Vernon Carus estate about its plans for plots of land in the area. Mrs. Dyer will keep the situation under review. Gates on Johnson New Road are, however, due to be painted, which will be an improvement.

4.2 Stone Tram Shelter: Mrs. Dyer has been provided with a quote for refurbishment works to the shelter by a local contractor. A contribution to the works is likely to be forthcoming from the local Centenary Fund and the project could be suitable for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. It was agreed that this should be taken forward as a Network project and that Mrs. Dyer would put together an application. Issues such as ownership, permission to carry out the works and future maintenance will all have to be addressed. The Network will consider the issue of pursuing listed building status in due course.

DD

4.3 Community Clean Up: Mrs. Dyer reported that there had been a poor turn out at the clean up but that the volunteers nevertheless managed to fill 35 bags of rubbish from around the area. The area around the reservoir was particularly bad.

4.4 Reservoir Fence: It had been noted during the clean up that if the fence along the edge of reservoir had been in place then the amount of fly-tipping might have been reduced. It was agreed that this should also be pursued as a project. Mrs. Dyer will contact United Utilities about the proposal.

DD

5.0 Funding Representative

5.1 With the number of projects that the Network is currently working on it was agreed that it would be useful to have a funding representative to identify potential funding sources and to submit applications for grants. Mrs. Dyer was nominated and accepted the role.

6.0 Members' Updates

Blacksnape

- An interactive speed sign has been erected but is not yet working. Residents are not convinced the sign is in the best place and are liaising with Peter Van Eijsden about these issues.
- There have been a number of thefts of wall stones around Blacksnape.
- An alternative venue for residents' meetings is being sought. Enquiries will be made about the proposed community meeting room in the new sports pavilion on the playing fields. Enquiries will also be made about when the sports facilities will be open and who can use them.

GK

GK

- Mounding around land at the Blacksnape roundabout is blocking sight lines. The issue is currently with Councillor Slater. Members expressed their concern that permission to develop this land might be given. There was unanimous objection to development of this area, which it was felt would lead to the amalgamation of the villages with Darwen.

Millennium Green

- The Summer Fayre was held at the school and church in wet weather. The picnic, however, enjoyed very good weather and was attended by around 300 people.
- Carols on the Green is to be re-instated this year and will be held on the first Sunday in December.

Eccleshill Parish Council

- Village signs have been stolen.
- The Parish Council is trying to get existing 30 mph signs moved and has requested more signs to remind drivers of the speed limit. They are working with Councillor Slater on this matter.
- The playground has been allocated £50,000 from the Play Pathfinder moneys.

7.0 Geoff Mumford

- 7.1 It was reported that the Reverend Geoff Mumford was leaving Hoddlesden to take up the post of Priest-in-Charge of Copmanthorpe, Askham Bryan and Bolton Percy with Colton. He had therefore tendered his resignation from the Network.

Members formally recorded their thanks to the Reverend Mumford for the help and support that he has given to the Network and to his parish and asked that a letter expressing their good wishes for the future be sent.

GK

8.0 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Community News: A new electronic sign has been put up in the post office to advertise community news. Send items of news for display to Mr. Leadly via e-mail nick@thegreenleasingcompany.com
- 8.2 Neighbourhood Engagement: It was noted that the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators are being moved to new patches. Patrick Deeth will no longer cover Darwen and East Rural from 1st October.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Network will be held on **Wednesday 26th November 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank**