

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
And BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
at Queen's Hall, Burley in Wharfedale**

Commenced: 7.30pm  
Concluded: 8.50pm

**Chair:** Cllr Keith Dale, Vice Chair, Burley Parish Council  
Ms Chris Flecknoe, Shipley Area Co-ordinator

**Clerk:** Mrs Jo Griffiths

**Present:** District Councillors Matt Palmer & Dale Smith  
Parish Councillors Keith Dale, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Matt Palmer, Peter Riley and Mike Walker and 64 members of the public. 6 people indicated that this was the first time they had attended a Neighbourhood Forum in Burley.

**F29/0809      Apologies for absence**

District Councillor Greaves, Councillors Tilford and Forrest, Sue Whelan, Bruce Speed, Brian Spence, Hazel Gundry.

**F30/0809      Welcome and introductions**

Cllr Dale opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending the Neighbourhood Forum.

**F31/0809      Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum**

Proposed by Cllr Peter Riley and seconded by Derek Parkin the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**F32/0809      Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not already on the feedback sheets or agenda.

**F33/0809      Crime and Policing Issues**

PC Stuart Hudson spoke about the importance of Neighbourhood Watch and the efforts the Neighbourhood Policing Team were putting into promoting the scheme. Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent tool in crime prevention and gives residents the opportunity to protect their own property and those of their neighbours. Most Neighbourhood Watch areas cover 15-20 households and he encouraged anyone interested in more information about the scheme, or starting a new area, to contact the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the district. Information leaflets had been handed out at the meeting with contact details of the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Inspector Susan Sanderson had distributed copies of the Neighbourhood Policing Team's most recent newsletter. The newsletter is regularly updated and is available on the NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) website. The monthly crime figures for December indicated that once again Wharfedale Ward had the lowest level of crime of any district in the Bradford area. The NPT is working to lower this further and there are currently 8 PCs, 8 PCSOs, a Sergeant and an Inspector working out of Ilkley Police Station. The NPT is working to reduce number plate theft by replacing number plate screws with tamper proof screws; local residents are invited to contact the NPT for further details of the scheme. The Speedwatch scheme is operating in and around the village; any areas where there is particular concern about speeding vehicles could be targeted and members of the public were invited to offer suggestions.

**Question:** Thieves had recently broken into a house in the village by tampering with and then snapping the lock on the front door. Local residents were urged to ensure that they fitted anti-snap locks.

**Answer:** The police crime prevention officer is available to any residents who would like to receive advice on making their homes more secure.

**Question:** The police are trying to prevent number plate theft; are any particular number plates more attractive than others e.g. older car plates?

**Answer:** The police were not aware that any particular type was more attractive than another.

**Question:** There had been a recent increase in graffiti in the village with a particular tag; what action could be taken?

**Answer:** When reported to the police they would come and take photos and then seek information via the website on whose tag it might be. Follow up action could then be taken.

**Question:** What could be done about youths skateboarding around the village, particularly those riding skateboards on the road and using the speed bumps as ramps? Concern was also expressed about the number of cyclists in the village without lights on their cycles.

**Answer:** There were no specific laws about skateboarding but police officers would speak to anyone they thought was causing a nuisance or danger to themselves or others. Any cyclist without lights would be stopped by the police. Inspector Sanderson would draw this to the attention of the PCSOs patrolling Burley.

**Question:** There had been an increase in the number of people parking cars on Station Road below the railway bridge; there had been recent occasions when the pavement had been blocked here by the parked cars.

**Answer:** The police were aware of this and when people were committing an offence then tickets would be issued.

**Question:** There are particular problems on Prospect Road. The school bus had got stuck that day – what action was being taken by the police?

**Answer:** The police had attended this incident.

**Question:** What was being done to prevent the increasing obstruction of the village's narrow streets by an increased volume of traffic when people extend houses?

**Answer:** Planning Officers take traffic & highways issues into consideration when examining a planning application. If a specific obstruction is being caused then the police have powers to issue enforcement notices. The general rule is that an obstruction is being caused if there is insufficient room for a fire engine to gain access.

**Question:** What information did the police have about the new rules regarding parking against dropped kerbs or opposite dropped kerbs?

**Answer:** Inspector Sanderson was not aware of these new rules and would look into this further.

#### F34/0809

##### The Lawn

Andrew Serbert, from Incommunities, provided an update on the building work at The Lawn. Building work was largely on schedule after some delays due to the poor weather; completion is still expected in mid April.

The new building which comprises 15 units is specifically for the over 55s, some units will be for rent and others for shared ownership. The old building, containing 14 units, is for general use and was all for shared ownership.

Shared ownership is a means for housing to be made affordable for people who might otherwise find it hard to get on the property ladder, or allowing people with a house to downsize to a smaller property and release some of the equity. Mr Serbert gave an example of the recently completed properties on Norwood Avenue:

Property valued at £140,000. Incommunities agree to sell 25% of the property; the purchaser is then responsible for obtaining and paying the mortgage of £35,000. The purchaser also rents the remaining 75% from Incommunities with an option to purchase more of the property at a later date.

A show home for The Lawn should be available in the coming weeks and an Open Day will be held.

**Question:** What provision has been made to retain the properties as affordable housing?

**Answer:** Under the current rules laid down by the government no provision can be made to retain the units for general use; all of the property has to be available to be purchased if so required. The units for over 55s are retained in perpetuity for affordable housing as only a maximum of 75% can be purchased, the remaining 25% will always be held by Incommunities.

**Question:** Are garages included in this development or will it just result in more cars blocking village streets?

**Answer:** There are no garages within this development but the plans were approved by Planning Officers.

**Question:** Will the Lawn be solely for Burley residents?

**Answer:** Priority will be given to those with a local connection either because of family, employment or their current housing in the village.

**Question:** What progress was being made with the raised hump at the entrance to The Lawn to prevent floodwater entering?

**Answer:** Mr Serbert was not aware what progress was being made.

Anyone interested in the accommodation at The Lawn could fill in a form, available at the meeting, and return it to Elaine Reilly from Incommunities who was also attending the meeting.

#### F35/0809

##### Parish Plan

Cllr Jones introduced this item and advised that it was now four years since the work on the Parish Plan, carried out by the Burley Community Council, took place with questionnaires across the village

and an Open Day at Queen's Hall. The Parish Plan is used by the Parish Council as a working document and each month a section of the plan is reviewed and updated. The Parish Council is seeking to update and refresh the plan and to ascertain if there are issues not being addressed by the plan – it was noted for example that in the original plan flooding was not mentioned but that it is now an issue that affects many in the village.

Feedback sheets were distributed around the meeting and those attending were asked to split into groups of 3-4 for 10 minutes to identify and note down three things about Burley that they feel are very important to preserve and keep and three things that they would wish to see improved or changed. Feedback sheets were collected by the Parish Council and would be analysed and incorporated into the Plan.

Issues raised at the meeting included: improved recycling facilities at Queen's Hall, the importance of preserving the allotments in the village - both public and private; provision of a playable tennis court in the village; and formulation of a village sports council.

**F36/0809**

### **Burley Festival Week**

Cllr Dale reported on the work of the steering group set up to establish Burley Festival Week. The dates of the festival would be Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Events would include a vintage car rally, historical walks, a fell race, music events and activities for those of all ages.

Meetings of the steering group are open to all and the next meeting is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Queen's Hall – everyone welcome.

**F37/0809**

### **Parish Council Update**

The most recent newsletter had provided an update on the work of the Parish Council but attention was drawn to a few further items.

Anyone who had not, or was aware of someone who had not, received a Burley Handbook or a newsletter was asked to contact the Parish Council.

It is understood that a press release would be issued next week on Burley Grange and the new owner.

Cllr Jenkins was still collecting user evidence forms for the footpaths around Hag Farm discussed at the last Forum. If anyone had not completed a form but had information could they please contact Cllr Jenkins to receive a copy of the forms.

Mr John Gundry provided an update on the most recent information re: Burley House Field:

The first application for Village Green status for Burley House Field was made in 2000, this lost on evidence of haymaking in the 1980s. A second application was lodged and lost after a Court of Appeal decision that has since been over-turned. The Shipley Area Panel and the Bradford Executive have ruled that the field should be leased to Burley Parish Council for a peppercorn rent but this has never been forthcoming from Asset Management. A third application has now been lodged and after hopes that this could be decided on written submissions, is now going to a third public enquiry. The date of the enquiry is yet to be determined.

Mr Gundry noted that his first correspondence with Bradford Council on the subject of Burley House Field was in 1993. Those attending showed appreciation for Mr Gundry's continued work on this matter.

**Question:** Mr Gundry has done a marvellous job in working to retain the field for the residents of Burley, what right have a group of officers at Bradford Council to try to stop what the village wants? The District and Parish Councillors were urged to take this up.

**Answer:** District and Parish Councillors have taken this up at various times but have always been stalled by officers from Asset Management. District Cllr Smith would take this up again,

**Question:** The field is at the moment no more than a large dog toilet. What efforts are being made to convert this into a usable green space?

**Answer:** The field is currently let to a tenant and nothing can be done at the current time.

**F38/0809**

### **October Neighbourhood Forum Feedback**

The white report back sheets distributed at the Neighbourhood Forum provided an update on issues particularly concerning Burley or raised at the October Forum. The yellow sheets provided information relevant to the whole of the Shipley constituency and particular attention was drawn to the Community Heroes Scheme and to the Grassroots Grants that are currently available.

Dog fouling is a particular issue in the village at the moment and leaflets were available at the meeting giving information on how to contact the Dog Warden Service and what action could be taken.

**F39/0809**

### **Open Forum**

There were no questions at this time.

**F40/089**      **Any Other Business**  
None

**F41/0809**      **Date of the next meetings:**  
Annual Meeting of the Parish – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, 7,30pm at Burley Oaks Primary School  
Neighbourhood Forum - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 7.30pm at Queen's Hall