

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
And BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on
Thursday 18th June 2009
at Queen's Hall, Burley in Wharfedale**

Commenced: 7.30pm
Concluded: 9.25pm

- Chair:** Cllr Keith Dale, 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, Kath Forrest, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Matt Palmer, Peter Riley, Sylvia Tilford and Mike Walker and 81 members of the public. 20 people indicated that this was the first time they had attended a Neighbourhood Forum in Burley.
- F01/0910 **Apologies for absence****
District Councillor Greaves
- F02/0910 **Welcome and introductions****
Cllr Dale opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending the Neighbourhood Forum. Cllr Dale invited Mrs Mary Wood to speak to the meeting about the presentation made by Zachari Saye on behalf of the community of Tereli to Burley in Wharfedale. The wooden carving is a kiwara and has been specially carved for the people of Burley. The carving will be on display in Burley library. Mrs Wood offered thanks to all those members of the community who had made Zachari so welcome on his recent visit.
- F03/0910 **Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum****
Proposed by Dennis Warwick and seconded by Cllr Peter Riley the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 15th January 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
- F04/0910 **Matters arising****
There were no matters arising that were not already on the feedback sheets or agenda.
- F05/0910 **Crime and Policing Issues****
Inspector Susan Sanderson of Wharfedale & Craven Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) offered an update on local policing issues. Copies of the NPT newsletter were circulated and regular updates could be found on the NPT website.
Inspector Sanderson reminded the meeting that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) were the most visible policing in Burley. PCSOs do not have the same powers as police officers but are there for community support and are primarily out on patrol dealing with local issues and listening to local priorities.
The identified local priorities for Burley are: speeding and tackling damage to vehicles along Grange Road.
Speeding is tackled through Community Speedwatch and Inspector Sanderson appealed for additional volunteers to take part in the programme.
The police were appealing for anyone with information relating to the damage to vehicles on Grange Road to come forward either by calling Crimestoppers anonymously or by contacting NPT officers. The incidents on Grange Road were happening sporadically and this was making it difficult to catch those responsible and the police are working with residents to tackle the issue.
Inspector Sanderson reminded those at the meeting that Burley remained a low crime area but that the police were working to reduce the crime figures even further.
Question: It is not helpful for the police to describe Burley as a low crime area. Repeated incidents of damage to vehicles along Grange Road did not make residents of Grange Road feel that this is a low crime area.
Answer: Burley is a low crime area although this did not minimize the very personal impact of crime on an individual and the police are exploring a variety of strategies to tackle the issues on Grange Road.

Inspector Sanderson drew attention to two recent crimes in neighbouring areas: robberies in Ilkley and Menston skate parks and the rape in Ilkley. Individuals had been arrested for both these crimes but investigations are on-going.

Information on Europrofile locks was available at the meeting and Inspector Sanderson would be happy to provide information to anyone with questions.

F06/0910

Traffic & Highways

Simon D'Vali Principal Traffic Engineer for the Shipley Area provided an update on issues affecting Burley.

Traffic Regulation Orders have been posted for the parking review. The review had been a large undertaking and the consultation process time consuming. Plans were available at the meeting to look at and copies would be left with the Parish Council. Any residents with comments were invited to contact Mr D'Vali's office as soon as possible.

Residents of West Terrace have recently experienced problems after the change to civil enforcement of parking regulations; the existing traffic regulations are now being enforced which has led to problems for those wishing to park in this area. Traffic & Highways Officers have worked hard to find a solution and a proposal will go before Shipley Area Committee in the next few weeks which if approved, will allow increased parking in this area.

The flooding problems along Station Road have now been resolved by the removal of the large tree trunk from the culvert. A recent inspection had shown that the culvert remained clear. Construction of the chicane will then commence.

It is Mr D'Vali's aim to be able to re-surface Moor Lane as the road surface is in poor condition. The traffic calming scheme is poor and it may be an opportunity to put in a new scheme. A community based consultation would be carried out and comments would be welcomed.

Question: Speeding is an issue along West Terrace when the road is clear of parked cars. The parked cars form a natural traffic calming.

Answer: This is being addressed in the new scheme suggested for this site but the road is a bus route and this needs to be kept in mind.

Question: Can the 20mph speed limit along Station Road be extended towards mini-roundabouts?

Answer: This can be looked at but if introduced would need to be enforced and would therefore require traffic calming measures.

Question: Can a crossing be installed opposite the Post Office?

Answer: It could be but this would lead to a reduction of parking in this area which may not be popular with residents of this area.

Question: What are the proposals for parking restrictions around the area of the railway station?

Answer: Parking in this area will be formalised with parking bays and yellow lines. This will improve access particularly along Prospect Road.

Question: Speeding is an issue that concerns many in Burley, could a 20mph speed limit be introduced through the village?

Answer: It could be done but it would be expensive and there is a finite budget for traffic and highways. 20mph speed limits require some kind of enforcement which can be expensive.

Question: Is it a requirement to have enforcement in a 20mph zone?

Answer: Yes, unless the particular road make up or geography of an area are such that further measures are not required.

Question: Langford Lane is a 20mph zone but there is no enforcement?

Answer: At the time of day when the 20mph is required i.e. school pick up and drop off the parked cars in this location provide the enforcement.

Question: What arrangements are being made for the adequate provision of parking for the residents of Far Mead Croft?

Answer: The new scheme for West Terrace should reduce the impact of parking by residents of West Terrace on Far Mead Croft. If this does not resolve the issues then Traffic & Highways will look at this area.

Question: The gullies on Moor Lane and Station Road are blocked again, what is being done about this?

Answer: Cleaning of the gullies has been ordered again.

Question: When Moor Lane is re-furbished, what will the new speed bumps be like?

Answer: Traffic & Highways will work hard to find a balance between safety and comfort.

Question: What can be done about speeding and flooding problems along Grange Road?

Answer: It is hoped that the flooding issues have been resolved but Traffic and Highways will consult about speeding issues on this road.

School Admissions

Nina Mewse, Research & Development Officer and Sue Colman, Assistant Director for Learning Services were present to discuss admissions arrangements for primary schools in the Burley area.

Ms Mewse outlined the current admissions process including the timetable, information provided to parents, criteria for allocation of places and the appeal process. The particular problems this year had been caused by a large and unpredicted increase in the number of children requiring a primary school place. In recent years 91% of children that Bradford Council knew about (from Health Authority data) have required a place at a state primary school. This year 95% of children required a place. Last year 6,800 children had required a place, for this year the local authority had estimated just under 7,000 children would require a place, the actual figure was 7,300.

Each year Bradford Council meets with individual schools to discuss particular issues and to allow for the exchange of information. The council will meet with representatives of both schools next month.

Question: What can be done to avoid this situation again? Why can't a common sense approach be taken and allow extra children into the schools without the need to go to appeal as this is very stressful for families?

Answer: The published admissions number for Burley Oaks is 45. In previous years when numbers have risen above this level then extra staff and funds have been made available to the school and this is a temporary arrangement made in consultation with the school. The local authority seeks to work with the schools, a permanent change in the admissions to a school require assessments and public consultations. The local authority is not permitted by law to exceed the published number without first consulting the school.

From the figures provided the health authority, 79 children in Burley required a space for entry in 2009, 90 children actually required a space. This could not have been anticipated.

Sympathy was offered to those families who had been through the appeals process. It was acknowledged that the process is stressful but the council cannot make exceptions as it would not be fair to other parents if informal arrangements were made to the detriment to other families.

Bradford had the highest number of appeals this year for primary school places than anywhere else in the country. Bradford is the third fastest growing city in the country and this was placing pressure on the schools admissions process.

Question: Why are children from Baildon being allocated spaces in Burley schools at the expense of Burley children?

Answer: Siblings are given priority under the current system and if a child has a sibling in the school already (perhaps because of a low entry rate in an earlier year allowing entry for children outside the village) then they will be given priority. Burley Oaks had a catchment area in previous years that did not give priority to siblings; this was withdrawn at the request of the school and local community.

Question: Can the sibling rule be abolished?

Answer: It is a two year process to review and then implement a change to policy. Officers make recommendations to the elected representatives who then make the final decision.

District Cllr Dale Smith addressed the meeting and advised that the schools also find these issues very difficult. The structure of schools and funding for schools is set up on class sizes of 30 pupils and exceptions to this make life difficult for the schools. District Cllrs were aware of the need to plan ahead for future years.

Question: A fundamental issue for parents in Burley is that if you live in the village you should be able to send your child to a school in Burley. Officers were urged to find a way to implement changes to allow this to be possible more quickly so that parents were spared the stress of the appeal process.

Answer: Officers accepted that the appeals process was stressful. A speedy reaction is not always possible but Bradford Council and the schools want a solution as much as anyone. Whilst officers try to get people the first preference of school this is not always possible.

Question: Where do officers get their data from?

Answer: From the local Primary Care Trust and from schools.

District Cllr Palmer added that as a point of principle he and his colleagues accepted that Burley children should be educated in Burley schools and this was an issue for colleagues across the district. There were not overnight solutions to this problem but they would continue to work to ensure that Burley children are allocated places at Burley schools.

Burley Grange

Alan Hayes, the new owner of Burley Grange offered information on the new uses for the building.

Mr Hayes is in charge of a not for profit organisation offering support for the unemployed and self-employed. The ground floor of Burley Grange will be used to offer unemployment support and training, business link support and training through Learn Direct. Burley Grange will also serve as a base for

BIATA (Bradford and Ilkley Arts Technology Academy) for a wide range of courses. The cellar workshops are available and it is hoped that these could be re-equipped and brought back into use. During the summer holidays the building will be used for summer holiday activities for children aged 7+ and details were available at the meeting.

It is hoped to re-open the crèche for 2 hour periods so that those parents attending courses can drop off their children, it could also be used by local residents.

Planning permission has been submitted to change the first and second floors into residential accommodation for Mr Hayes and his family.

The building had been empty for more than two years and extensive repair work has been carried out in the last few months to return the building to an acceptable level. Work is continuing and by mid July it is hoped that the work will be complete and residents will be invited to attend one or more Open Days.

Mr Hayes explained that the previous practise of public parking in the car park will not be able to continue as the spaces are required for those using the building on a day to day basis. Mr Hayes wished to discuss with Bradford Council an idea for increased parking at the side of the building that could then be made available to the public.

Question: When is the planned opening?

Answer: By the end of July with 2/3 open days.

Congratulations were offered to Mr Hayes for the work carried out to date and for re-introducing adult education provision to the village. Good wishes were offered for the future.

F09/0910

Voluntary Organisations Support

Paul Stephens, Voluntary Organisations Support Officer for Bingley and Shipley Voluntary Services offered information on the kind of services that could be offered to the local community.

Bingley & Shipley Voluntary Services help provide services such as day care for older people, luncheon clubs, community transport and be-friending services within the Bingley and Shipley areas. Many of these services are already offered in Burley and Bingley & Shipley Voluntary Services would not wish to compete but it may be able to help in its role to support local community and voluntary groups. This could be through offering advice on good governance or funding opportunities; access to specialist help including support for management committees and project planning perhaps around the issues of recruiting new and younger volunteers.

Question: Is there a central place to find out about volunteering?

Answer: Shipley & Bingley Voluntary Services provide a free leaflet and Volunteering Bradford will seek to match volunteers to individual opportunities.

Question: Lots of volunteers are needed in Burley for a variety of groups. Many of those already involved are of the senior age group, can help be provided in finding new younger volunteers?

Answer: Yes, a project could be run on this basis.

F10/0910

Burley Summer Festival

Cllr Sylvia Tilford provided an update on the first Burley Summer Festival from 21st to 30th August.

The Festival has been initiated by the Parish Council but has been planned by a group from across the village, to which thanks are offered. Particular thanks are offered to the Chamber of Trade for their support.

The programme has been virtually completed and a copy of the programme will be delivered to every household. If anyone could offer help with distribution then please contact Cllr Tilford or Jo Griffiths, Parish Clerk.

The full programme will be on the village website and tickets will go on sale at the Village Fete on 4th July. Some events will be free, others at low cost and others at full cost. Some funding has been made available from local organisations and from the Big Lottery Fund.

Volunteers will be required for the Festival Week for a variety of tasks from providing refreshments to collecting tickets and acting as a steward at events. Please contact Cllr Tilford or Jo Griffiths, Parish Clerk if you can assist.

F11/0910

AGM Burley Community Council

Bruce Speed, Chairman of Burley Community Council presented the AGM. Last June it was reported that BCC has remained in existence to try to resolve the outstanding business of Burley House Field. BCC's third application to register Burley House Field as a village green was heard at a Public Inquiry at Queen's Hall on 20th and 21st April 2009 by Vivian Chapman QC, the Inspector appointed to hear the two previous applications. The hearing went well; the case was well prepared and presented by our barrister, Nigel Clayton. It is hoped to receive the result of the inquiry by the end of this month.

Thanks are offered to Nigel Clayton and a gift will be offered to him in gratitude for everything he has

done for this project, all of which he has done without charge and in his spare time. Thanks were also offered to John Gundry who prepared the extensive documentation and supported Nigel throughout this inquiry, and to the many people who gave their time and support. Copies of the accounts were circulated and adopted by the meeting. The Committee members agreed last year to continue until the status of Burley House Field is settled, and they are:

Chairman: Bruce Speed
Secretary: Sylvia Tilford
Treasurer: Clive Myatt
Members: John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, John Sparshatt
Life Vice President: John Gundry

F12/0910 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.

The official opening of The Lawn is at 3.30pm on 23rd June 2009. It is gratifying to see this building brought back into use.

The Parish Council has previously appealed for responses to the review of the Parish Plan, there is still time to submit comments and these will be fed into the plan.

F13/0910 January Neighbourhood Forum Feedback

Information is provided on the report back sheets.

F14/0910 Open Forum

As the meeting had been so full it was proposed to postpone the Open Forum until the next meeting. Anyone with particular issues could speak to Chris Flecknoe, Shipley Area Co-ordinator at the end of the meeting or complete one of the feedback sheets available at the meeting.

F15/0910 Any Other Business

None

F16/0910 Date of the next meetings:

Neighbourhood Forum - Thursday 15th October 2009, 7.30pm at Queen's Hall