

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
And BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on
Thursday 21st January 2010
at Queen's Hall, Burley in Wharfedale**

Commenced: 7.30pm
Concluded: 9.30pm

Chair: Cllr Keith Dale, Chair, Burley Parish Council
Mr Michael Churley, Ward Co-ordinator, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Clerk: Mrs Jo Griffiths
Present: District Councillor Dale Smith
Parish Councillors Keith Dale, Kath Forrest, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Peter Riley and Mike Walker and 48 members of the public.

F33/0910 Apologies for absence
District Councillors Greaves & Palmer, Parish Councillor Sylvia Tilford, Dr & Mrs Warwick

F34/0910 Welcome and introductions
Cllr Dale opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending the Neighbourhood Forum including Mr Churley who would be co-chairing the meeting.

F35/0910 Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum
Proposed by Peter Riley and seconded by Cllr Mike Walker the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 15th October 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

F36/0910 Matters arising
Mr Churley drew attention to the feedback sheets and the information provided in them. Particular attention was drawn to the Community Heroes scheme run by the Area Co-ordinator's Office and an initiative run through Bradford Libraries to allow residents to borrow meters to measure how much electricity was being consumed in their home.

F37/0910 Community Warmth Initiative by NPower and Bradford Council
Victoria Mitchell from NPower provided information on the scheme run in Bradford to encourage the use of cavity wall insulation and improved insulation of loft spaces.
Cavity wall insulation was free to all provided council tax is paid. Loft insulation is provided at a subsidised cost until April 2011. The meeting was advised that loft insulation should be a foot deep.
Over 60s and those in receipt of means tested benefits are entitled to cavity wall and loft insulation free of charge.
Question: How could residents measure the depth of their insulation?
Answer: NPower could provide loft rulers to measure the depth.
Question: Having had cavity wall insulation done 3 months ago and paid for it, could the cost be re-claimed from NPower?
Answer: Possibly, if they are an NPower customer. Advised to contact NPower direct.
Question: How did contractors deal with part boarded lofts and spotlights that required space around them?
Answer: Contractors would place insulation only in the non-boarded areas and would leave the required space for ventilation around a light fitting.

Question: If a loft is boarded and contractors cannot lift the boards then would they put lagging under the tiles instead?

Answer: Government funding was not available for lagging so this was not part of the scheme.

Question: Is there any provision for under floor insulation on ground floors?

Answer: Not at this time due to disruption to householders.

Ms Mitchell advised that many electricity companies are now giving out meters to measure electricity consumption free of charge.

F38/0910

Recycling

Kate Stanley, Recycling Officer from Bradford Council provided information on what materials can be recycled and what Bradford Council is doing to encourage recycling.

The majority of Bradford's rubbish goes into householders' green bins and goes to landfill. This results in environmental problems and for every tonne of rubbish that goes to landfill there are substantial costs, fines and penalties to the district council. The council is seeking to encourage recycling to reduce the problems and financial costs.

Ms Stanley outlined the various types of doorstep recycling available to residents and discussed what items should and should not go into the various categories.

There is a good response to recycling in Burley but in other areas there is a poorer response and Bradford Council is seeking to target these areas to improve the rates of recycling.

Question: Could clarification be given on recycling yoghurt pots?

Answer: Bradford Council doesn't offer a kerbside plastic recycling collection. Plastics are very difficult to recycle as there are many different types and there is not yet the technology or demand to recycle them. The only plastic items that can be recycled are clear or opaque bottles.

Question: Can wrapping paper be recycled?

Answer: Yes, as long as it is not foil or glittery.

Question: What can residents do with brown envelopes?

Answer: Brown envelopes should not be recycled via the paper bins. They can be composted.

Question: What is recycled plastic used for?

Answer: Fleece jackets contain recycled plastic. Recycled plastic is also used for garden furniture and for refuse bins.

Question: Is Bradford Council incinerating rubbish as well as placing it in landfill?

Answer: A new waste strategy is under development. As part of that, all possibilities are being explored. The main focus is on recycling although there will always be some residual waste.

Question: Some people place yoghurt pots in recycling bins. What happens to the plastic collection – are the unwanted items removed?

Answer: If it is a limited contamination then the items are pulled out but if it is a large load that is contaminated then it goes to landfill.

Question: Can broken crockery be put into recycling?

Answer: No, broken glass should be placed in general refuse collection.

Question: What will be done about problems associated with green waste collections e.g. lack of green bags, bags blowing away etc?

Answer: New green bags will be available from the Spring. There are some problems associated with the bags blowing away etc. but on the whole they are a better solution for the Bradford District. Many Bradford households would not have space for another bin and the bags can be folded away for storage when not in use. To avoid bags blowing away it is advised: to put your house number on the bag, put a large stone out for the collectors to put on top of empty bags.

Question: If green rubbish is put out but not in a green bag will it still be

collected?

Answer: Yes if it is obvious that it contains green waste.

Question: Plastic gets recycled in some areas. Are there any long term plans for kerbside recycling of plastics and recycling of different plastics?

Answer: Not at this time.

Question: What colours of corrugated cardboard can be put in the paper recycling bins?

Answer: All corrugated cardboard should be taken to a cardboard recycling point.

Question: Can Christmas Trees be put out for green recycling collection?

Answer: Yes.

F39/0910

Citizens Advice Bureau Sessions in Burley

Liz Reveley from Citizens Advice Bureau offered information on the sessions to be offered on a fortnightly basis at St Mary's Parish Centre.

CAB would offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a range of issues. Help and advice would be given or information on specialist advice offered.

Sessions would only be available by prior appointment and CAB was keen to encourage uptake.

Anyone interested in volunteering for CAB would be very welcome and was asked to contact the Bradford office of CAB.

Question: When are the sessions to be offered?

Answer: Fortnightly on Thursdays.

F40/0910

Community Action and Support Against Crime (CASAC)

Neil Goldup offered information on the role of CASAC in working with West Yorkshire police in crime reduction.

CASAC offers free assessments to home owners and recommendations on crime reduction improvements e.g. replacement locks, upgrading of locks, doorframes, spy holes and chains.

As a not for profit organisation CASAC will also carry out work at competitive rate. CASAC offers details of tradesmen who have been vetted by them.

Question: CASAC offers free services in some areas of Leeds. Is this available in Bradford?

Answer: Yes, this is part of a scheme across Leeds, Bradford and Calderdale. It is a scheme for target hardening on properties of burglary victims, vulnerable people and areas with extremely high burglary rates. Residents must be recommended by Crime Reduction Officers.

Question: What does this kind of work cost?

Answer: Cost of replacing one Europrofile lock is around £70. The price decreases if more than one lock is to be replaced.

Question: Can vulnerable people access the services for a reduced rate?

Answer: CASAC is a not for profit organisation and costs are kept as low as possible.

F41/0910

Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

Liz Bailey one of the Neighbourhood Wardens for the Wharfedale area was introduced.

The wardens are a patrolling presence in the area to offer an increased responsiveness and effectiveness by council services. Wardens are particularly interested in environmental issues e.g. fly tipping, graffiti.

Wardens also work with the local community to build up community links and offer assistance. They are keen to work with local schools and organisations. They also work with the Incommunities manager for this area.

The wardens patrol in Burley at least one day a week, usually two half day

sessions.

Residents are encouraged to contact the wardens.

Question: Do the Neighbourhood Wardens have any role in parking enforcement?

Answer: They do not have powers to hand out tickets but do liaise with other bodies e.g. police, parking enforcement officers on known problems.

F42/0910

Burley Summer Festival 2010

Cllr Dale offered a brief update.

After a good deal of positive feedback from the first festival the second Burley Summer Festival will take place from Saturday 21st August to Monday 30th August. A core organising committee has been formed with a larger working group to support it. More volunteers are still needed to join the working group and to offer events or support. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th February 2010, 7.30pm at Queen's Hall – all welcome. Anyone with ideas, offers of help or assistance is invited to contact the Parish Council.

F43/0910

Parish Council Update

The most recent newsletter provided an update on the Parish Council's work. It was noted that the parking scheme has been delayed because of the bad weather.

There had been a number of complaints to the Parish Council about the lack of gritting around the village and the general condition of roads and pavements. Bradford Council is responsible for gritting and road clearance and the Parish Council had been in contact with them to request gritting and make enquiries about the provision of grit and grit bins. A full copy of the response received from Bradford Council can be viewed on the village website.

Question: The railway station and car park had not been treated and the platforms were very dangerous. Who was responsible?

Answer: Northern Rail is responsible and the comments would be passed on.

F44/0910

October Neighbourhood Forum Feedback

Information was provided on the feedback sheets.

F45/0910

PACT Meeting

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.

Tackling traffic problems remained a priority. PCSO Wade continued to carry out regular speedwatch exercises. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist with these exercises should contact the NPT. Complaints about obstructive parking in the village continued and the police had issued tickets in a number of locations. Parking on pavements was being tackled by leaflet drops.

The crime figures for December were exceptionally low and the NPT aimed to keep them low.

There have been a number of incidents of indecent exposure in the village. During the most recent the girl had been assaulted. The culprit had not yet been identified but descriptions were being circulated and the police were asking local residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Advice was being offered to young people.

Question: What number should the public call if they witness anything suspicious?

Answer: If it is a crime on-going or the suspect is there then call 999.

Question: What is the description of the suspect?

Answer: Asian male in his early 30s, approx. 5ft 10" wearing black clothing and

sometimes obscuring his face.

F46/0910

Open Forum

Question: What action as a community can we take to help in bad weather?

Answer: Neighbourhood Wardens would help vulnerable people if they are known to them. Information would be sought from council officers on action during poor weather including responsibilities for and liabilities after clearing drives, paths etc. Information would also be requested from Age Concern and other agencies that deal with vulnerable groups.

Question: Some villages in the Bradford district run a community car scheme and volunteers assisted during the bad weather to bring supplies to those that would not go out.

Answer: Burley runs a similar scheme – Good Neighbours.

Admission Number for Burley Oaks Primary School

Bradford Council is consulting on an increase to the admission number for Burley Oaks Primary School. The Parish Council is seeking local views before replying *Claire Hemming, Deputy Headteacher of Burley Oaks Primary School* offered information from the School's viewpoint. The school wishes to accommodate all Burley children who want a place at a Burley school. It is the school's concern that a permanent increase in the admission number will have a negative financial impact on both schools in the village. The school questioned the reliability of the information on prospective pupils that Bradford Council had and the need for a permanent increase in school places in the village. It is the school's suggestion that Burley Oaks agree to admit up to 60 children for 2010 and 2011 whilst maintaining its status as a 45 pupil entry school and retaining the flexibility it currently has in controlling its budget.

Questions to & answered by Mrs Hemming:

Question: Although parents understand and sympathise with the school's position would a temporary arrangement to take 60 pupils mean that some parents would still have to go through the appeals process?

Answer: The school has already expressed its willingness to accept 60 pupils but the formalities behind that have yet to be finalised. The school hopes that appeals would not be necessary.

Question: On what basis does the school have its numbers of projected pupils?

Answer: From the local health authority.

Question: It states on the consultation document from Bradford Council that 'known Early Years parents would be consulted'. Parents in the village with Early Years children have not been consulted.

Answer: The school will pass these comments to Bradford Council and copies of the consultation can be obtained from the school or the Parish Council.

F47/0910

Any Other Business

Cllr Walker offered thanks to the volunteer distributors of the newsletter for their work particularly during the bad weather when pavements had been very difficult to negotiate.

F48/0910

Date of the next meetings:

Annual Meeting of the Parish – Thursday 25th March 2010

Neighbourhood Forum – Thursday 17th June 2010