

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
And BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on
Thursday 17th June 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 Chris Greaves, District Councillor Matt Palmer
Parish Councillors Keith Dale, Kath Forrest, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Matt Palmer,
Peter Riley and Sylvia Tilford and 60 members of the public.
- F01/1011 **Welcome and Introductions****
Michael Churley opened the meeting and introduced the items on the agenda.
- F02/1011 **Apologies for absence****
District Councillor Smith and Parish Councillor Mike Walker.
- F03/1011 **Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum****
The minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 21st January 2010 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
- F04/1011 **Matters arising****
Mr Churley drew attention to the feedback sheets and the information provided in them.
- Cllr Greaves left the meeting at this point
- F05/1011 **Hydro Electric Power on the River Wharfe****
Jamie Needle from Derwent Hydro provided an update on the scheme to generate Hydro Electric Power at Greenholme Mills. Construction is due to start in July 2010 and continue until around November. There will be a pause in construction during the winter months with the generator turbine due to be installed in February 2011. It is hoped that by Easter 2011 electricity will start to be generated on site.
Interest had been expressed in the impact of the scheme on water levels across the stones below the weir. It was estimated at certain times of the year the water levels would be lower and the stones therefore easier to cross. There will be certain times of year when river levels are too low and the scheme will not operate.
Question: What will happen to the power being generated?
Answer: It will enter the National Grid via a sub-station at Greenholme Mills.
Question: How did this proposal get approved?
Answer: Planning permission had been acquired from Bradford Council and a license from the Environment Agency.
Question: Are fish ladders included in the proposal?
Answer: Yes, there is a bypass on the turbine.
Question: How will the power be carried?
Answer: There will be underground cabling across a field to the mill.
Question: The power is being generated by a private company. Is there any benefit to the local community from this project?
Answer: There are some rents associated with the project that are being paid locally.
Question: The goit is very silted up. What will be done about this?
Answer: The goit will be cleared with the material extracted used for landscaping around the project.
Question: Will there be water in the goit all the time?
Answer: Yes, the level will be flat from the weir onwards.
Question: What voltage will be generated?
Answer: Low voltage – 415v.
Question: What disruption will there be to the path along the goit and local houses?
Answer: Very little disruption.

Question: How many days is it estimated that the scheme will not be in operation?

Answer: About 15% of the year which equates to 50/60 days.

Mr Needle was thanked for this contribution.

Cllr Greaves rejoined the meeting at this point

F06/1011 Leeds Bradford International Airport

Cllr Riley introduced the item and explained the Parish Council was seeking to assess the level of concern about the airport within the community. Also the interest from residents in inviting representatives of Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA) to a future forum to discuss concerns and issues affecting the village.

Cllr Riley offered some information in regard to the airport: incoming planes are not required to follow any particular flight path; incoming planes make much less noise than outgoing planes; outgoing planes should follow the noise preferential route; the centre line of the preferred route runs between Burley and Menston; the northern limit of the preferred route is at the Sports Pavilion at Scalebor Park; pilots are permitted to deviate from the preferred route for valid operational reasons.

Cllr Riley recognised that is very difficult to judge if a plane is off track.

It was Cllr Riley's observation that less planes are off track than 2-5 years ago. A bigger issue is the age, size and load of the planes. Newer planes are quieter.

LBIA had recently carried out a consultation on its Noise Action Plan and this had been submitted to the Department of Environment. A copy of the draft plan could be viewed in the library.

There are indications that a review of the flight path is imminent – this could be good or bad news for the village.

Cllr Riley advised that Menston had been very successful in reducing the number of off track flights over the village by engaging directly with representatives of LBIA via Neighbourhood Forums and Cllr Riley suggested that Burley should consider a similar dialogue.

Cllr Riley offered his personal opinion that the community needs to take into account the situation now and in the future. There is likely to be demand from the airport for more flights and more night flights. LBIA should be encouraged to keep as far as possible to the centre of the preferred route and Burley as other local communities are, should be keeping up pressure on the airport to stick to its agreements. One way to do this would be to invited LBIA representatives to a future forum.

Question: Does the airport have a responsibility to assist with noise reduction in Burley?

Answer: No, Burley is too far away from the airport to qualify for this.

Question: How can residents register objections to the airport?

Answer: Through making complaints to the Environmental Officer at LBIA and perhaps more effectively by participating at a forum when representatives of LBIA are present.

Question: Are there regulations regarding night flights?

Answer: Yes. At the moment the number of night flights is well below the upper limit.

Question: Wouldn't it be better to spread the routes across all communities rather than just a few? Burley Woodhead is particularly affected at the moment.

Answer: That is one option. The centre of the preferred route currently runs between Burley and Menston so as to reduce the impact on centres of population.

Question: Would our best efforts be directed at encouraging airlines to use quieter planes?

Answer: It should be one part of the community's response.

Question: Does the Parish Council have access to the noise monitoring information that is carried out by the Environmental Monitoring Officer at Leeds City Council?

Answer: The Parish Council does not receive this information but does receive information via Philip Davies MP of how individual companies are performing against the Noise Preferential Route.

Question: There are limits on night flights and these are limited between 11pm and 7am. Is there information on the permitted level of noise between these hours? There is some suggestion that the restrictions may be narrowed to 12-6.

Answer: This would need to be checked with LBIA but they do seem to be strict about noise levels at night because of the impact on local residents.

Question: A local resident had been in correspondence with LBIA in March this year but nowhere did it mention the consultation on its Noise Action Plan.

Answer: A consultation had been carried out and the Parish Council had responded but there had been some discussion that perhaps the consultation had not been as widely publicised or as wide ranging as was hoped.

Question: Menston has done very well at getting its voice heard by the airport and has a seat on the LBIA Consultative Committee. Why doesn't Burley have a seat on this committee?

Answer: The Parish Council requested a seat but was refused by LBIA. District Councillors were pursuing this further.

Question: Why are planes not more accurate in taking off along the preferred route?

Answer: The planes are subject to the conditions at the time. Variables such as the size, weight and load of the plane cause variation in the route.

Question: A resident of Burley Woodhead observed that many planes fly directly over this population centre. Was it the intention that more planes should do this?

Answer: The centre line of the preferred route should be between Burley and Menston but at the moment it may be that more off track planes are towards Burley.

Question: Isn't one of the problems with the flight path? As the planes turn they are noisier.

Answer: Yes, this is a complex area and will depend on how steep the turn is and how full the plane is.

Cllr Greaves offered the following comments:

Non-jets can fly wherever they wish.

LBIA has a website and individuals can check if individual planes are off track.

There are individual airlines that perform poorly and efforts have been made to tackle this.

The noise preferential route is a curve (normally these are a straight line) this makes staying on track more complex.

The LBIA Consultative Committee has a District Councillor representative on it and Cllr Greaves has sometimes attended. There was some doubt how effective the committee is in changing the views of the airport.

Question: How could local consultation best be organised?

Answer: At Menston it was organised with some success through the Neighbourhood Forum.

Question: Why wait for them to come to us? Why not get a collective opinion and take it to them for example via a petition?

Answer: It was Cllr Greaves' assertion that it would be most effective via a group representation.

Question: How can we rely on the data supplied by the airport? Surely they have a conflict of interest?

Answer: It is up to us to hold them to account.

Question: It seems that 8/9 years ago the routes were different?

Answer: There are often operational reasons for changes but representatives of LBIA would be best placed to answer this.

Question: At one time aircraft came down the valley between Otley and Burley, why did this change?

Answer: Again, representatives of the airport could best answer these questions.

Question: Are the views of Burley Woodhead residents to be taken equally into account?

Answer: Yes, but if we get LBIA here then all of these questions can be asked and answered.

Cllr Palmer offered the following comments:

There is an on-going debate with LBIA by the district councillors and our MP. It is important to keep challenging the information from the airport and recognise that the discussion is not just about the flight path. The airport is run by a private company and as such there will be a pressure for more flights and more people to use the airport. The local community must challenge the airport on its growth and the nature of its growth.

Cllr Riley thanked everyone for their contributions and asked for a show of hands from those present as to whether it would be useful to get representatives of LBIA to a future forum. It was the opinion of the vast majority present that this would be useful and they should be invited to either the October or January forum.

F07/1011

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

John Anderson asked those present to consider how they could reduce their carbon footprint and as a result reduce their energy bills.

Why act now? To be ahead of the game – the government and Bradford Council have set some challenging carbon reduction targets and we can help achieve those by acting now.

There is government website – Act on CO2 and this was recommended for ideas and information on lots of simple things that can be done.

Society is getting used to a more and more comfortable life – this is not sustainable in the long term and we need to start making decisions on how we live.

Every house sold has an Energy Efficiency Rating – we need to take note of these and work to improve them.

Mr Anderson outlined how he has acted to reduce his own energy bills by installing and using solar thermal and photo voltaic panels so that he can now generate 74% of his own electricity. What he doesn't use is fed back to the National Grid and he receives payment for this at a very good rate.

Question: What is the outlay for this kind of technology?

Answer: It can be substantial but there are grants available and firms will lease panels to individuals. The cost can be off-set by what you save on your own energy bills and what you will be paid by the energy companies for the surplus electricity fed back into the grid.

Question: Why is there no grant available for having insulation sprayed on the inside of the roof?

Answer: Not all types of insulation attract grants or funding.

Cllr Jenkins advised that researchers at Imperial College had recently been testing new photo-voltaic panels that were much cheaper to produce.

Cllr Greaves reminded the forum that planning permission is sometimes required for solar or photo-voltaic panels.

F08/1011

AGM of Burley Community Council

Mr Bruce Speed, Chairman of Burley Community Council (BCC) gave a brief history of the formation of BCC in 1976 and its activities up to the formation of the Parish Council and Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust in 2006. As required by its constitution the members of the committee of BCC were listed and the annual accounts presented.

A proposal to wind up BCC when the Parish Council was formed was rejected at the time because of the opportunity to have a third application to register Burley House Field as village green. BCC is the organisation named in all documents from the two previous inquiries and was to be the applicant for the third. That was successful and the task of negotiating the lease has been transferred to Burley Parish Council.

BCC is the leaseholder on the Round House at a favourable rate, which it has not been possible to transfer to BWCT under the same terms.

Apart from the lease, BCC has no other activities. If retained as a dormant organisation with a small committee it could be revived if it seemed appropriate to do so perhaps where BWCT's constitution would not permit it to take on a particular task. This was agreed and Mr Speed was re-elected as Chairman of BCC.

F09/1011

Burley Parish Council Update

Cllr Dale invited Duncan Ault, Secretary of Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust (BWCT) to speak. Mr Ault explained the role of BWCT in maintaining and running several village activities e.g. Duck Race, Christmas Lights, Cornmill Pond. BWCT is dependent on subscriptions, funds it raises itself and any donations. Subscriptions cost £10 for individuals and £15 for families, anyone interested in becoming a member could see a member of BWCT after the forum.

Cllr Dale reported that the latest newsletter had given an update on parish council activities. Negotiations on a lease for Burley House Field are on-going. Cllr Dale had discussed the lease with Cllr Green, the new portfolio holder for Regeneration at Bradford Council who had agreed to look at the details in an effort to finalise the lease. It was Cllr Dale's hope that this could be finalised by the end of this month.

Cllr Tilford provided an update on Burley Summer Festival. The festival will run 21st - 30th August and the last few issues in regard to the programme are currently being resolved. It was estimated that the programme would be with all households by early July with booking starting from 14th July. The outline programme is on the village website and regular updates will be provided.

The programme has been devised to hopefully offer one or more events that will appeal to everyone in the village. As many events as possible are for free but where there are ticket charges they are to meet the costs of events only. Some funding has been applied for but a response is still awaited.

Volunteers are required to help ensure the smooth running of the festival, the time given can be as little or as much as someone can give. More information on volunteering can be obtained from Cllr Tilford. If anyone wishes to sponsor an event or the last quarter page of the festival programme then please contact the organising committee as soon as possible.

F10/1011

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.

Inspector Sanderson introduced PCSO Thompson who will be working locally.

The priorities for Burley are identified as: conducting regular Speedwatch exercises and reducing anti-social behaviour by local youths congregating at Burley Oaks Primary School.

Any members of the community interested in volunteering to assist with Speedwatch would be most welcome.

Inspector Sanderson discussed crime numbers and types in Wharfedale. Crime in Wharfedale remains low and priority for the police is tackling those issues identified by members of the public as important to them.

Question: Is it possible to change the location of the Speedwatch on Bradford Road? In its current location it is possible to see the police from a long way off and adjust speed accordingly.

Answer: Speedwatch is about deterrent rather than enforcement but yes, locations can be adjusted. If there are persistently high levels of excessive speeding then a Road Traffic Officer can be called in to carry out enforcement exercises.

Question: Have the problems with youths at Burley Oaks been reported to Bradford Council's Youth Services?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What can the public do about people in cars on mobile phones?

Answer: The police cannot take direct referrals from members of the public. Casualty Reduction events are held in the district and these help target those using phones whilst driving.

Question: There are concerns about excessive speeding on Main Street particularly between Queen's Hall and The Malt Shovel.

Answer: This had been raised a few days ago and a Speedwatch exercise carried out earlier this week. There is sometimes a perception of greater speed than there actually is but if there is a problem then Road Traffic Officers can be brought in.

F11/1011

Open Forum

Question: Is there any progress on providing extra allotments?

Answer: There is still a very long waiting list. The Parish Council is still looking at new sites but the problem is the cost and availability of land. All allotment plots are now either being halved or quartered when they are re-let to ensure that more people are getting allotment space.

Baildon Parish Council are running a garden-share scheme and Mr Churley would provide some more information on it

Question: What activities are being carried out to ensure that the views of the many people who are not at the Neighbourhood Forum are being represented?

Answer: The Parish Council offers a number of ways to interact with the council and to offer views/opinions including via the village website, open surgeries, contact with councillors. It's true that the council should be open to new ways of interacting with the population of the village.

Question: There is a lot of littering at Burley Woodhead particularly in the lay by that is picked up by local residents. What can be done to discourage littering?

Answer: Signs are an option but this could also be explored as a target area for a Day of Action.

Question: A satisfaction survey is being circulated at the forum. What use is the age or ethnicity data?

Answer: It allows the Shipley Area to assess if it is targeting resources appropriately. These sections of the form can be left blank if preferred.

Cllr Jenkins offered thanks to those individuals who distribute the newsletters and Summer Festival Programme. There is a need for more distributors, particularly as a back up when regular distributors are unavailable. Volunteers are asked to contact the Parish Council.

F12/1011

Date of the next meetings:

Neighbourhood Forum – Thursday 21st October 2010

Neighbourhood Forum – Thursday 20th January 2011