

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
and BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on
Thursday 17th January 2008
At Burley Oaks Primary School, Burley in Wharfedale

Commenced: 7.40pm
Concluded: 9.20pm

Chair: Cllr. Caroline Jones (Chairman Burley Parish Council)
Ms Chris Flecknoe (Shipley Area Co-ordinator)
Clerk: Mrs Jo Griffiths
Present: District Councillor Matt Palmer
Parish Councillors Keith Dale, Kath Forrest, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Matt Palmer, Peter Riley, Sylvia Tilford and Mike Walker
90 members of the public of whom 25 were attending a Forum for the first time

F33/0708 Apologies for absence
District Cllrs Chris Greaves & Dale Smith, Dennis & Margaret Warwick

F34/0708 Welcome and introductions
Speakers for the evening were introduced and everyone attending was welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were offered for the late start to the meeting; this was due to the change of location and to allow attendees extra time to arrive. As there was a very full agenda this evening the speakers would take some questions from the floor after their talks but would then take extra questions outside the main hall in order for the meeting to continue.
Cllr Jones offered thanks to all the newsletter distributors who had once again done an excellent job in delivering the newsletters. Additional distributors were always required and anyone wishing to volunteer was invited to contact the Parish Clerk.
Cllr Jones offered clarification on the report in the previous week's Ilkley Gazette. The running hours of the village water feature had been restricted during the winter months because of the high electricity costs – the backdated bill had been £1,500 not £15,000 as reported.

F35/0708 Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum
Proposed by Cllr Peter Riley and seconded by Cllr Matt Palmer the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 18th October 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

F36/0708 Matters arising
There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda or in the report back sheets.

F37/0708 Crime and Policing Issues
Police Constable Stuart Hudson updated the forum on policing issues in the area. The figures included the whole Wharfe Valley as this gave a better overview of the communities of Burley, Menston, Ilkley, Ben Rhydding and Addingham.
Crime statistics across the Wharfe Valley had gone down in the period October to January as compared to the previous year. Some of the key crime statistics were as follows:

Crime Type	October 06 – January 07	October 07 – January 08
Assaults	21	22
Burglaries – dwellings	39	34
Burglaries – other types	24	25
Damage to motor vehicles	31	23
Theft from motor vehicles	30	27
Theft of motor vehicles	7	7
General theft	54	59
Theft from shop	11	7
Total	286	249

Signed

Date

PC Hudson advised that burglaries to dwellings were often due to the property not being secured i.e. unlocked doors or windows. Residents were reminded to keep house and key cars out of sight at all times. General theft included the theft of lead and other materials from buildings. Members of the public were invited to report any suspicious activity or vehicles to the police. Some crime was related to the railway link and involved travelling criminals using the trains. The police had recently detained two suspects after a burglary in Menston on the train; they were believed to be responsible for several local burglaries.

Question: Would the police now return items taken away from properties as evidence?

Answer: Yes, PC Hudson would look into this.

F38/0708

Flooding risks and protection

Tony Poole was unable to attend. Alan Davison from the Drainage Department at BMDC offered advice and information on issues surrounding flooding in the local area.

Burley suffers flooding in particular conditions, mainly when the overland flow of water off the moor reaches very high levels. This may result in the land drainage system of pipes and culverts being unable to cope with the quantity of water.

The introduction of drainage in moorland areas had increased the run off of water and current policy for managing overland water flow encouraged landowners to deal with the water at source rather than channelling it elsewhere. Projects on Ilkley Moor to tackle this had had some recent success. The moors above Burley were largely privately owned which gave the District Council less input.

Responsibilities for the various water courses and drainage are divided between a number of agencies. The Environment Agency is responsible for flood defences concerning the River Wharfe. Public sewers are the responsibility of Yorkshire Water. Yorkshire Water is also responsible for the Register of Properties affected by flooding. It is important to keep Yorkshire Water advised of any flooded properties as this helps attract larger amounts of funding to an area. Water courses crossing private land are the right and responsibility of the landowner and it is his/her responsibility to ensure that the water course flows freely and is unpolluted; any culverts must be kept clear and unblocked.

What can be done to minimise flooding?

The Environment Agency carries out catchment studies to find out the best way to deal with the water. Any issues with main rivers should be reported to them (08708 506506).

Bradford Council has various legal powers to ensure that water courses are kept clear and running freely. Anyone with concerns about damaged or blocked water courses should contact BMDC (01274 434675). In the first instance the council would seek to improve the situation by dialogue with the landowner, if necessary this can proceed to legal action. BMDC also has powers under planning laws to ensure that property developments do not overload the existing water flow and courses or impede floodwater routes or put other properties at risk.

Issues with regard to highways drainage e.g. blocked gulleys, should be directed to BMDC (01274 431000). These will be investigated and if necessary, dealt with.

Question: Does the council's remit cover culverts that pass under roads that link two open beckes?

Answer: Yes, they would be kept clear.

Question: The Parish Council had held meetings with Tony Poole to discuss flooding issues in the village, particularly along Grange Road. Cameras were due to be put down the affected culverts – had this been done and was there a report available?

Answer: Mr Davison was aware that a land drainage officer had been out to look at these issues but he had not seen a report. He would look into this and report back.

Leaflets were available at the meeting from the Environment Agency offering advice and further details and information could be obtained from the websites of the Environment Agency and Bradford Council.

F39/0708

Traffic Issues

Simon d'Vali, Principal Engineer for Shipley had been invited to attend the Forum to update residents on the various Traffic & Highways Issues affecting Burley. In particular to address the concerns of residents re: the proposed chicane on Moor Lane.

The Burley parking review had been the subject of a previous forum and since then the scheme had been slightly amended to incorporate various local issues and concerns. It was expected that the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) would be advertised in the very near future and that work might start in June.

The problems at Moor Lane – speeding, footpath widths and access to the station had been drawn to the attention of Traffic & Highways Officers. The current proposal – to introduce a chicane underneath the railway bridge went some way to addressing these concerns by widening the footpath, slowing down traffic and giving priority to traffic leaving the village.

Question: There are deep concerns over the proposed chicane – particularly during the period when the school buses are picking up children. Vehicles will not be able to safely pass due to poor visibility past the buses. This is not a suitable place for the buses due to the junction of the roads and a recipe for disaster.

Answer: The buses had been using this area for a long time, the problem occurs for a maximum of 15 minutes per day. There are many issues to address at this site but in this instance the needs of the pedestrian must be given priority over the needs of the motorist and they will have to wait.

Comment from the floor: Strongly support the use of public transport for the children to get to school and a relatively safe journey to school for the children of the village must be a priority.

Cllr Palmer offered thanks to Simon d'Vali and his team for all their work. This scheme had been some years in the making and many alternatives had been considered and dismissed. Some concerns over sight lines would be addressed by the parking review as there would be restricted parking in this area. The scheme addressed key concerns of residents of the village by slowing traffic into the village, improving traffic flow and improving safety at this junction.

Question: Will there be proper wheelchair access to the station?

Answer: Yes, the scheme incorporated dropped kerbs on both sides of the road.

Anyone with further queries was invited to study the plans with Simon d'Vali outside the meeting.

F40/0708

Local Secondary Education

Gillian James, Headteacher of Ilkley Grammar School addressed the forum and offered a flavour of life at Ilkley Grammar and the ethos behind the school.

The school is oversubscribed and has approximately 1500 pupils. Approximately 23% of the intake is from Burley, 31% of the current year 7 is from Burley. The school's priority area 1 serves the communities of Addingham, Ilkley and Burley. Priority area 2 includes Menston.

The school is a specialist science and humanities school which allows it to attract extra funding. It is part of one of three federations of schools in Bradford and this allows for close liaison between schools, although the relative geographical isolation of Ilkley from the rest of the schools makes this difficult.

Pride is taken in being aspirational and the school's standards are high with good GCSE and A Level results. Pupils enjoy being at a school that does well and are proud of their school, this is reflected in very high levels of attendance. Students are well prepared for their future careers. The Ofsted report from May 2007 found many areas of the school to be good or outstanding and that the school is well set for the future.

Emphasis is placed on enrichment programmes including residentials and a range of charitable work and in educating the whole child.

The school has good links with both schools in the village but more could be done to improve links with the community of Burley and an invitation was offered to anyone who wished to visit the school.

Nina Mewse, Principal Research and School Planning Officer for BMDC offered details of the admission policies and processes for Ilkley Grammar School.

Admission policies had been changed in recent years. Previously Ilkley Grammar had taken children from feeder schools in the area, including both schools in Burley. After extensive consultation this had been changed and the school had two priority areas. Maps of the priority areas were shown and Burley is included in priority area 1. Living in the priority area did not guarantee children a place at the school, if the school is oversubscribed admission is allocated on the following basis:

- Looked after children;
- Children with special needs naming Ilkley Grammar School;
- Children in priority area 1 with siblings at IGS;
- Children in priority area 1;
- Children in priority area 2;
- Children from outside the area.

In recent years Ilkley Grammar School has always been oversubscribed.

Admissions booklets for secondary school are sent to every child in year 6 with a Choice Advisor available to assist parents and to chase up any late entries. Notification of the allocation of places should reach parents by 3rd March with the schools notified a week before.

Parents have a right to appeal if they are not happy with the decision and the decision of the appeals panel is definitive and the school has to take them

Question: Can Burley parents be offered reassurance that if they want places at Ilkley Grammar School for their children they will get them?

Answer: There are no plans to change the priority areas for Ilkley Grammar School at the current time. If there were to be any changes these would be well advertised and there would be an extensive consultation period.

Question: Are Askwith and Denton included in Priority Area 1?

Answer: Yes.

Thanks were offered to both speakers for their informative speeches. Further discussion continued outside the meeting.

F41/0708

Parish Council Update

The Grange – the Parish Council had been advised by Bradford College that the building will be put up for sale in the New Year. To date, this had not happened. The Parish Council would be re-presenting its proposals to Bradford College when the marketing details had been received.

Burley House Field – the Burley Community Council had deferred a decision on whether to pursue a third application for village green status until the end of the month. Dialogue with Bradford Council continued over a potential lease.

Awards Scheme – small groups were invited to apply for funding for capital projects. The local history group had recently received an award to allow them to purchase a printer/scanner to assist them in their work.

Fair Trade – Mary Wood spoke briefly to update the Forum. The Parish Council had voted to support Fair Trade and a group was being established to get Burley named a Fair Trade village. The first meeting was on 23rd January and anyone interested in attending was invited to contact Mary Wood or Cllr Keith Dale. Leaflets were available at the meeting giving further details on Fair Trade.

F42/0708

Neighbourhood Forum Feedback

Chris Flecknoe had circulated green sheets providing feedback on issues raised at the last forum. Attention was particularly drawn to the following:

- Shipley Area Big Spring Clean – the areas listed had been nominated and would be receiving attention
- Additional Housing in the Bradford District – attention was drawn to the requirement for additional 50,000 homes in the Bradford district. Spatial Vision and Strategy documents would be on the website and residents were urged to make their comments known. Three special Neighbourhood Forums across the district would be held to discuss the proposals and details would be advertised.

The yellow sheets circulated gave information on activities across the Shipley constituency and particular attention was drawn to the Funding Fair at Kirkgate Community Centre on 26th January and the Community Heroes scheme for which nominations were still being welcomed.

F43/0708

Open Forum

Moor Lane Centre

Attention was drawn to the cutbacks in mental health provision at the Moor Lane unit. People would now be required to travel to Keighley for mental health provision, this would be very inconvenient and very costly as the new site was poorly served by public transport. Residents were urged to express their views to the relevant person at Airedale Hospital and details of who to write to were circulated. It was agreed that Chris Flecknoe would write on behalf of the Forum to express the concerns raised.

Question: What can be done about the poor condition of the following roads: Hasley Road & St Phillips Way; and Queens Hall car park.

Answer: These concerns would be reported.

Question: Why did the 20mph zone on Langford Lane not extend further down the lane past the school?

Answer: Extensive consultation had been done on the Safer Routes to School initiative and this had not generally been raised as a concern.

Question: Was there a replacement scheme for the Russell Street project (donating computer equipment)?

Answer: Not known at this time but the information would be obtained.

Question: Why couldn't a large 'Slow Down' sign be posted on the bypass approaching the bend towards Otley where there had been so many recent accidents?

Answer: This was under Leeds Council's jurisdiction but Chris Flecknoe would raise this with officers from Leeds.

Question: Why were there so many power cuts in this area?

Answer: Unknown at this time but Chris Flecknoe would contact the electricity supply company.

The Forum was reminded that any problems with services provided by BMDC e.g. potholes, street lights out, could be reported to the council via BDirect on 01274 431000. A number was allocated to any report and if passed to the parish council it could then be followed up.

F44/0708

Any Other Business

None

F45/0708

Date & time of next meeting

Annual Meeting of the Parish - 7.30pm, Thursday 17th April 2008, Burley Oaks Primary School

Neighbourhood Forum - 7.30pm, Thursday 19th June 2008, Queens Hall