

**BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
And BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on
Thursday 16th October 2008
at Queen's Hall, Burley in Wharfedale**

Commenced: 7.30pm
Concluded: 9.30pm

- Chair:** Cllr Sylvia Tilford, Chair, Burley Parish Council
Ms Chris Flecknoe, Shipley Area Co-ordinator
- Clerk:** Mrs Jo Griffiths
- Present:** District Councillors Chris Greaves, Matt Palmer & Dale Smith
Parish Councillors Keith Dale, Kath Forrest, John Horton, Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, Peter Riley, Sylvia Tilford and Mike Walker and 60 members of the public. 10 people indicated that this was the first time they had attended a Neighbourhood Forum in Burley.
- F17/0809 **Apologies for absence****
Miss Barbara Montford.
- F18/0809 **Welcome and introductions****
Cllr Tilford welcomed everyone to the Neighbourhood Forum and introduced the speakers for the evening.
- F19/0809 **Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Forum****
Proposed by Cllr Caroline Jones and seconded by Cllr Peter Riley the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 19th June 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
- F20/0809 **Crime and Policing Issues****
Inspector Susan Sanderson and PC Stuart Hudson were in attendance. Copies of the Neighbourhood Policing Team's news sheet, taken from their website, were distributed at the forum.
Crime figures for the area were on the NPT website. Inspector Sanderson reported that for the most serious crimes against individuals e.g. burglary to dwellings, Wharfedale Ward had the lowest crime rate of any ward in Bradford.
Inspector Sanderson emphasised that the low crime rate in this ward was not making the police complacent. Levels of crime at this time of year often increased because of the longer hours of darkness. Steps were being taken to combat this including more patrols, more officers on patrol and free distribution of equipment to discourage crime e.g. personal alarms, timer switches etc. Inspector Sanderson had details of how the equipment could be obtained and would stay until the end of the meeting.
The Speedwatch campaign was active in the area. Residents may have noted the presence of volunteers and officers carrying out exercises in the village. At the current time no tickets were being issued but letters were being sent out to those found to have been speeding.
Inspector Sanderson drew the attention of those present to the increased theft of plant equipment from local development sites. Anyone noting suspicious activity was encouraged to contact the police.
Question: What was happening to Neighbourhood Watch in this area?
Answer: The whole Neighbourhood Watch scheme was under review. Details of co-ordinators were being checked and updated. Anyone interested in Neighbourhood Watch was encouraged to contact the police. PCSO Hodgson was setting up a meeting for local co-ordinators at the Clarke Foley Centre on 1st December. Details of the meeting would be circulated.
Question: Who would residents ring if they noted criminal activity on construction sites?
Answer: If it is on-going then 999. If it is non-emergency then residents should contact either the local NPT officers via 01274 475301 or the non-urgent police number: 0845 6060606.
Question: What is the legal position regarding parking on pavements?
Answer: It is a quality of life issue and the general rule is that a vehicle is causing an obstruction if a pram or mobility vehicle cannot pass by on the pavement. A parking ticket can be issued by a police officer but sufficient officers are not available to attend every incident. If there is a persistent problem then the police can provide leaflets that can be left on vehicles causing an obstruction.
Question: Is there any reason why Speedwatch is not used on Station Road or Langford Lane?
Answer: There are no particular reasons why these roads are not currently covered and Station Road can certainly be added.

Question: Did the 10 incidents of criminal damage shown on the latest crime figures refer to one individual on one particular day?

Answer: They referred to a number of incidents and one individual had since been detained.

Question: The crime figures are not shown in comparison to other wards.

Answer: The exact figures for Burley and Menston are shown and this accounts for 5% of total crime in the Bradford North and Airedale division.

F21/0809

Rights of Way

Fiona Plane, Rights of Way Officer for the Shipley Area was attending the meeting to talk about two outstanding applications for Rights of Way in the area. Maps had been distributed at the meeting indicating the routes – one in the Clarence Drive area that was being actively investigated and the other along the disused railway that was not yet under investigation but for which, additional information was required.

Question: Access to the old railway line from Menston Old Lane was very difficult; could this be improved to allow easier access and use of the path?

Answer: Applications are dealt with in chronological order.

Ms Plane explained that evidence forms needed to be completed for both routes and forms were available at the meeting and would be available from either Bradford Council or the Parish Council for anyone wishing to offer information and show repeated use and thereby establish a right of way.

Question: How many years does a right of way have to be in use before it is recognised?

Answer: The legislation states it must be for more than 20 years but not necessarily all by the same person(s).

Question: Evidence forms have been submitted for the route along the old railway line previously, do new ones need to be submitted? Some of the older residents who submitted forms have since died.

Answer: New forms do need to be submitted as there have been some changes to the forms but the old ones can still be used.

It was noted that access via the cattle underpass under the railway line along the west side of the railway line was also of concern and landowners; walkers etc. with information were encouraged to come forward.

Question: The path that runs through Greenholme Mills from Leatherbank is a permissive right of way, is there any chance that this could be made a public right of way?

Answer: During the 1950s this path was investigated by a public enquiry and the application to make this a public right of way was rejected. The path continues to be managed as a permissive right of way and access is withdrawn at various times and it was unlikely that this could be made a public right of way.

Question: What action can be taken to stop dog owners allowing their dogs to foul along rights of way and farmers' land?

Answer: This is an on-going issue for landowners and farmers and little could be done other than educating dog-owners.

Question: Landowners on the whole did not object to walkers on paths but there were objections to those walkers who did not stick to paths, the de-facing and destruction of notices restricting access and dog-owners who failed to pick up their dog's waste.

Ms Plane also had some information on a path at Burley Woodhead that may have come down off the moor to Highfield House and from then down to Burley Woodhead. Anyone with information was encouraged to come forward, at the current time the information was limited and contradictory.

F22/0809

Tree Management Programme for the Village Green

Eric Waterworth, Tree Officer within the Conservation Department at Bradford Council had assessed the trees on the Village Green. The Village Green is owned by Asset Management and they have notified the Conservation Department that they wish to remove 26 trees and cut back a further two, on the Village Green. The plan that has been developed seeks to tackle a number of issues on the Village Green: to remove alien species of tree that are not suitable in this area; to reduce the problems caused by low levels of light on the Village Green and in the neighbouring properties; to thin out the trees so that the trees left will have adequate space and light to grow. The plan also includes the planting of a further 10 trees that will be native species suited to the site.

Tree felling is expensive and Asset Management is reviewing the funding available. It has been suggested that the public may wish to contribute to the cost of planting the 10 new trees through the form of a public fund that would be established by the Parish Council.

Mr Waterworth acknowledged that felling of memorial trees can be a sensitive issue and where possible consultation with those involved would be offered.

Question: What will happen to the two centennial trees planted by the Burley Community Council?

Answer: This would be looked at before any work is carried out. All trees that have been identified for felling have been marked.

Question: This is the conservation area, what consent to carry out the work has been given?

Answer: The conservation team are actively involved in developing the programme and working with the different departments at Bradford Council that are involved.

Question: If residents have specific comments to make, how can these be made?

Answer: Direct to Mr Waterworth but preferably through the Parish Council.

Question: Efforts to have a diseased cherry tree taken out at Great Pasture were failing to receive a response, what could be done?

Answer: Fill in a feedback sheet available at the Forum with the details that could then be passed to Mr Waterworth.

Question: When the trees are taken out, will the roots be ground out?

Answer: Yes, but with the willows it may be necessary to fell the trees, treat the roots and then grind out at a later stage.

F23/0809

Parish Council Update

Cllr Tilford was pleased to report that after two years without a base the Parish Council had now secured an agreement with Bradford Council to use the John Squire Room at Queen's Hall. The Parish Council would be moving in during the next few weeks and details would be made available as soon as possible.

If anyone had not received a copy of the Burley Handbook 2008 could they please let Jo or one of the parish councillors know. Thanks were offered to those who had contributed to the handbook and to the distributors.

The Parish Council had raised the idea of a week long event next summer in the village. A meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd October, 7.30pm at Burley Oaks to discuss ideas and to make a final decision to go ahead. All welcome at the meeting but anyone who had ideas/contributions but could not attend the meeting was encouraged to contact Jo or one of the parish councillors. It is hoped that a wide consultation will draw positive responses and a large group of people to make it happen.

F24/0809

AGM of Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust

Mr Bruce Speed, Chairman gave the annual report for 2007-08 on behalf of the Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust.

Scalebor Sports Facilities: Notwithstanding two wet summers, the pitches have not been up to standard. The gradual deterioration since 2004 may be related to drainage problems near the adjacent buildings, but the standard of grass cutting has been very poor and Greenbelt Group Limited who are responsible have not responded adequately. It is hoped that proposed rectification work will resolve the problems, but there will be disruption to games.

The Pond in Cornmill Lane: Supervised opening was again arranged, and proved popular on Duck Race afternoon.

The Pudding Tree Garden: a new 10-year lease on this quiet oasis next to the Original Malt public house had been secured. Refurbishment of the area included a new central seat, supported by Burley & District Probus Club and John Myers Joinery, rebuilding part of the gateway and boundary wall by David Parr and hanging baskets by Burley Gardeners Association. A plaque acknowledging the private ownership of the area has been attached at the entrance.

The Round House: The major event this year was the theft of lead from the roof and damage to this listed building, and the Trust was pleased to have voluntary help from a local group (who shunned publicity) working with Tom Sumner to bring it back into use. Coffee is served there on 2 or 3 mornings and it is available for hire at a reasonable rate.

Christmas Lights and Street Market: The last Christmas market and switch on ceremony was a great success and it was gratifying that local traders and charities took stalls alongside the others. Thanks were offered to Chamber of Trade member, Tina Archer, who organised a dinner dance that raised £1500 donated to the Christmas Lights fund. Thanks also to Burley Parish Council, which contributed £1500. This year Bradford Council is replacing many street lights and there are rules on what can and cannot be attached to the columns. To comply, several of the features must be discarded and new ones purchased. These contributions go a long way towards the cost, and Burley's famous display will not disappoint on 29 November.

Annual Duck Race on the Wharfe: the main fund-raising event of the year, which attracts a large crowd of all ages. Money from ticket sales was donated to the village Scouts and Guides groups, the balance going towards Trust projects.

Village Website: The village website has continued to develop and now has almost 2000 pages including those for Burley Parish Council, who pay for the service. The Committee has recently

authorised new web software that will allow the Webmaster, Malcolm Fisher, to incorporate further improvements to content and navigation, which will soon include interactive village maps. Thanks were offered to Dennis Warwick for chairing this sub-committee for many years. He will stand down at the end of January, when Harvey Bosomworth will take over the Chair.

Monthly Coffee Mornings and 100 club: coffee mornings held in the new Parish Centre have proved popular with Saturday shoppers and provide fund-raising opportunities for both the Trust and other village groups, such as Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Burley Good Neighbours, etc. The monthly prizes for the 100 Club are drawn at these events. It has become increasingly difficult to find local organisations to take the charity table and to serve the coffees, and the Committee will have to consider how to progress with this event.

Support for Local Initiatives: The Committee actively supports many local initiatives, and Trustees have joined other volunteers during the year in litter picking and village clean-ups organised by the parish council, delivering the parish newsletter and the new Handbook, to ensure that every household in the village is aware of what is going on, including work done by the Trust.

Accounts for the Year to 30th September were presented, proposed by Dennis Warwick, seconded by Mike Harris and accepted. A copy of the accounts is attached (appendix 1).

The composition of the Trust's Committee has changed during the past year, with resignations from Mike Harris, and Parish Councillors Peter Jenkins, Caroline Jones, and Mike Walker, they were thanked for their contributions to the Community Trust and, before that to the Community Council. The committee has been pleased to welcome Harvey Bosomworth, John Grimshaw, Bill Howson, Barbara Montford and Andrew Wriglesworth who have agreed to serve in the coming year. Clive Myatt has resigned the role of Treasurer, but is willing to stay as a Committee member, and following an appeal for a new Treasurer, Niccola Swan has agreed to take this position. Any further nominations for Officers and Committee members were invited. One further nomination to join the Committee: Duncan Ault, had been received.

Mr Speed spoke about the contribution Mike Harris had made to the village. Mike joined Burley Community Council Committee in 1987 and became Secretary in 1992, a post he held until 2001 when he became Treasurer. When the Community Trust was established, it was Mike who dealt with the Charities Commission and ensured compliance with their requirements and prepared the annual reports. These were all voluntary roles and he achieved much for the village whilst running a business in Bradford. When it came to hands-on work, with a paintbrush or a spade, Mike had also been a frequent helper. A gift to show appreciation on behalf of the village was offered to Mr Harris.

Mr Harris offered his thanks for the gift and to the committee of Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust that had always worked hard, sometimes in the background, on behalf of the village.

Dr Warwick offered thanks to Mr Speed who was standing down as Chair of BWCT and BCC, posts that he had held since 2001 and offered appreciation for the work he had undertaken on behalf of the village during this period.

F25/0809

June Neighbourhood Forum Feedback

The green report back sheets distributed at the Neighbourhood Forum provided an update on issues particularly concerning Burley or raised at the June forum. The yellow sheets provided information relevant to the whole of the Shipley constituency and particular attention was drawn by Cllr Greaves to the information on the new permitted development rules. The new rules were not necessarily simpler and all residents were encouraged to check with the local Planning Office on whether they needed planning permission and if necessary, to seek a Certificate of Lawfulness before they proceed, thereby avoiding any enforcement issues at a later date.

Attention was also drawn to the closing date (30th January 2009) for nominations to the Shipley Community Heroes scheme.

Changes to parking enforcement action had been delayed. Responsibility for enforcing traffic regulation orders would now rest with Bradford Council but this was delayed whilst council officers ensured that all signage and lining were correct. Enforcement of criminal offences e.g. obstruction, would still rest with the police.

Concerns had been expressed at previous forums about the trees lodged at the weir on the River Wharfe. The Environment Agency had confirmed that they are not concerned about them – that they provide no risk of flooding and no action would be taken to remove them.

F26/0809

Open Forum

Question: Pavements in and around the village remain in poor condition. Some dropped kerbs have been installed but there is still not access to the railway station or from Hanover Way.

Answer: Highways Department at Bradford Council have a budget for dropped kerbs. Residents were advised to fill in the Have Your Say forms available at the meeting to identify the specific sites and

locations. It was noted that dropped kerbs are part of the chicane to be installed at the railway bridge and will allow easier access to the railway station.

Question: Does the rail authority have any specific duty to enable disabled access to the stations?

Answer: Not on the land outside the station.

Question: What will happen with the installation of ticket barriers at Leeds station to commuters who cannot buy a ticket at Burley as the machine has been removed.

Answer: Tickets and Metro cards are being re-issued to allow commuters to pass through the barriers.

Question: What is being done about the poor state of Queen's Hall car park?

Answer: A renovation programme has been suggested by the Parish Council and £5,000 committed by the Parish Council. Final quotes are being discussed and it is hoped that the District Councillors will provide the remaining funds from the Ward Investment Fund.

F27/089

Any Other Business

Question: Bradford Council has promoted Freecycle. The site is complicated to use - is there an easier way to recycle unwanted items in the Bradford District?

Answer: Not at the current time but the comments made will be passed on.

Question: Will the recycling facilities at Queen's Hall be removed because of re-surfacing?

Answer: Recycling facilities will not be removed although they may be shifted and down-sized.

Question: Why does it take Bradford Council so long to remove ragwort from the verges and central reservations of roads?

Answer: Cllr Riley responded: Bradford Council staff has been working to maximise the biodiversity of the roadside verges and roundabouts and this has had some impact on the way they treat ragwort. There is limited ragwort along the by-pass and what there is, is mainly on the central reservation which presents little risk to livestock.

F28/0809

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 15th January 2009, 7.30pm at Queen's Hall

Appendix 1: Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust Accounts September 2007 to September 2008