Oswaldtwistle Area Council

Wednesday, 24th March, 2010

Present: Councillor Britcliffe (in the Chair); Councillors Addison, Marlene Haworth, Roberts and Walmsley

In Attendance:
Co-optees: M. Porter (Victim Support), S. Taylor (Hippings Methodist School), P. Trickett (Rhyddings High School) and County Councillor Younis


Police: P.C. Jacks (Community Beat Manager for Oswaldtwistle) and P.C. Walsh (Community Beat Manager for Knuzden)

Officers: L. Dean, S. Watson, A. Roberts, N. Gastall, S. Gardner and E. Mercer

Visiting Councillor: - Councillor Collingridge

Welcome
The Chair welcomed residents to the first Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council meeting to be held at the Community Church in Oswaldtwistle.

Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor McCormack, Councillor Hayes, N. Mooney (Friends of Rhyddings Park), Mrs. V. Milne (Head of Moor End School), J. Jeffrey and H. Rogers.

Declaration of Interest
Councillor Addison declared a personal interest in the Budgets and Grants item relating to a grant application for St. Paul's School clock, due to her being a Governor at St. Paul's C.E. Primary School. In accordance with the Council's constitution and as her interest was personal she was able to continue to speak and vote on the item.

Retirement of Cannon Ratcliffe
The Chair reported that Canon Ratcliffe would be retiring as vicar of St. Paul's Church, Oswaldtwistle after serving the community of Oswaldtwistle for 29 years, the longest serving Church of England priest of a single Lancashire parish. The Chair requested
that a letter be written to Canon Ratcliffe from the Area Management Council to wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for all of his work in the community.

Agreed - That a letter be written to Canon Ratcliffe from Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council to wish him well in his retirement and thank him for all his efforts in the community of Oswaldtwistle throughout the last 29 years.

Minutes of the Meetings
The Minutes of the Oswaldtwistle Area Council meeting held on 29th July, 2009 were submitted for approval.

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July, 2009 be received and approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising & What’s Happening About
The Chair referred to Paper B of the agenda and reported that the open forum questions received prior to the meeting had been answered on the night and reported in the minutes. The following progress reports were submitted on items raised at the previous meeting:

**Allotment Sites** – Councillor M. Haworth referred to the improvement works that had taken place on Heys Allotments, including:

- 14 new allotments plots created in the last financial year.
- The termination of the leases of a number of tenants under the ‘use it or lose it’ scheme.
- Plans to create a further 38 new plots and to provide raised beds for disabled users and a car park and poly tunnels for the use of tenants.
- Actions taken to resolve the drainage problems and consideration of a well system being implemented.
- Repairs to the track leading to the plots from Heron Way and Fielding Lane and two ginnels leading to the plots.

Councillor M. Haworth also reported that details of a competition for tenants to be held in August would be forwarded to all tenants. In response to a suggestion that the spare land at the rear of Catlow Hall Street was made into allotments, she reported that there had been problems identifying the owners of the land but further enquires would be made.

**Garden Street Parking Issues** – The Chair reported that funding for a pilot scheme for a ‘residents only parking’ scheme had been approved on Garden Street and as there had been no objections from the Police and Lancashire County Council a formal consultation with residents would be initiated. He indicated that plans for a similar scheme around the area of Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre had not received enough support from residents to progress to the next stage. However, he informed the meeting
that the Area Management Council would be prepared to fund the implementation of a scheme if residents were prepared to buy the annual permits. He indicated that the initial costs for the Garden Street scheme would also be funded by the Area Management Council and approval would be considered under the meeting item 'Budgets and Grants'.

**Hyndburn’s Core Strategy** - Councillor Roberts reported that the Council was preparing the Core Strategy Development Plan document to replace the Local Plan. He reported that this would provide a plan for how the borough would progress over the next few years. He explained the process for implementing the Core Strategy Development Plan and encouraged residents to look at the plan and take part in the public consultation. He indicated that the press would be advertising the consultation.

The Chair referred to the importance of the document and encouraged residents to take the opportunity to find out more about it.

**Community Caretaker** – Councillor Addison provided a progress report on the duties undertaken by the Community Caretaker in Oswaldtwistle. She reported on the days that the Caretaker worked in Oswaldtwistle and the areas he had tidied and cleansed. She pointed out that during the severe weather he had also helped to clear snow and ice from the pathways. She explained that the Caretakers had been given vans with identifying logos, which helped them to get around much quicker than they had been able to in the past. She invited residents to submit ideas for areas of work by using the Community Caretaker forms, available at the meeting.

**Red Rose Travel** – The Chairman reported that there would be free trips to the coast and market towns for cardholders of Red Rose Travel during the Easter bank holiday. He provided details of the departure locations and indicated that during the Summer there would also be trips to:-

- Tuesdays - Blackpool and Fleetwood
- Wednesday - Skipton and Mystery Tours
- Thursday - Morcambe and Southport

He reported that the travel initiative would start from 3rd May, 2010 and end on 30th August 2010.

**MAIN ITEMS**

**Welcome to Oswaldtwistle**

The Chairman gave a presentation on the achievements of Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council during the municipal year 2009/10. He included the following examples:-

- A new coat of arms for Oswaldtwistle
- The refurbishment of West End Community Centre
• Improved safety at the Britannia junction due to the construction of the Britannia roundabout which Hyndburn Borough Council would be creating a wild flower area during the Summer).

• A shared hanging basket scheme with Hyndburn Homes.

• The improvement and opening of Walmsley Pavilion.

• A cheque for £75,000 from Hyndburn Borough Council for the St. Mary’s Playing Field to commence the project.

• Provision of CCTV cameras

• Area Management Council providing a small grant to the new Community Church, Oswaldtwistle.

• A new Tesco store in place of the old Fire Station.

• The success of the Veterans Day Parade

• The restoration of the War Memorial and garden area

• The Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre refurbishment

• Funding to restore St. Paul’s clock.

_Oswaldtwistle & St. Mary’s Football Club_

Kevin Gibson and Clive Yates gave a presentation on Oswaldtwistle & St. Mary’s Football Club. They outlined the history of the Football Club and recent developments including the Club achieving the Development Club Standard and plans to move towards Community Club status in the future. He pointed out that the Club’s aim had been to have their own ground to play on and indicated that they had already raised a lot of funding (from numerous sources) to pay for works which had included fencing, drainage and the creation of a purpose built pavilion and car parking area. They reported that the stakeholders in the project were the Football Club, Rhyddings High School and Lancashire County Council and referred to plans to develop the playing field to Football League standards. He explained that further funding was required to develop the playing field to the standard required by the Football League. He gave details of the club’s plans for a centenary celebration event and encouraged residents to purchase tickets.

_Rhyddings High School_

Paul Trickett, Head of Teacher of Rhyddings High School, reported that plans for an improved playing field was also good news for Rhyddings High School and referred to the planned refurbishment of the School. He indicated that consultations for this would be held with students and parents of Oswaldtwistle.

_Friends of Rhyddings Park_

Linda Dean read out a progress report on behalf of Neil Mooney, Friends of Rhyddings Park. She reported that:

• A new play area had been designed and installed
- Renewal of drainage and paths
- Fencing around the Bowling Green
- Bootstrap was working with Friends of Rhyddings Park to look after Pets Corner

She reported that he had sent thanks to the Area Management Council and Hyndburn Borough Council for their continued support for capital funding. She reported that a free James and the Giant Peach event would be held in the park on 31st May, 2010 and invited residents to attend.

**Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre**

Gayle Knight reported that the refurbishment on the ground floor of the Theatre had started in March and would be completed by August 2010. She reported that the finished area would be known as the Civic Arts Centre which would aim to attract mainly young people. A leaflet had been produced to provide information on the type of events that would be held in August. She informed the meeting that from September 2010 day events would be held for older people. She reported that the official launch of the Civic Arts Centre would be held in September. She reported that a Board of Trustees would be set up and invited residents to attend a meeting at Hippings Vale Community Centre if they wanted to become members of the Board.

**Hyndburn Customer Charter**

Steve Watson gave a presentation on the proposed Customer Charter. He explained that traditionally the Council had received low satisfaction levels from residents and that they aimed to improve this by renewing their commitment to put customers first. He reported that a mixed group of Council staff had put together a proposed Customer Charter including aims to improve standards in the areas of:

- Answering the telephone
- Providing access to services
- Corresponding with customers
- Provision of information
- Improving courtesy by staff
- Dealing with issues face to face

He asked residents for feedback on the above proposals and to comment on if standards had been met. He indicated that any comments should be forwarded to the Area Management Councils Team.

**Highways Issues**

The Chair reported that after consultation with Councillors for Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire County Council had listed the priority areas for work to be carried out on roads and pavements. He reported that these were:

- Road and pavement improvements to Buttermere Drive, Patterdale Avenue and Ennerdale
- Thwaites Street/York Street road improvements
- Road Improvements to Heys Lane from the Doctor’s Surgery to the junction of Alice Street
- Stonebridge Lane into Catlow Hall Street
- Lottice Lane
- St. Oswald’s Road, Knuzden at the junction of Hardman Close and at the junction with Peel Mount (which was now being done)
- Haworth Street

Local Issues

The Ward Councillors of Oswaldtwistle gave the following updates:

St. Oswald’s Ward

Councillor M. Haworth gave details of the refurbishment of West End Community Centre and reported that different events would be held there for all age groups. She indicated that she would provide more details on the types of events at the next meeting.

Councillor Roberts reported that the Knuzden area had been given their own dedicated Police unit rather than residents having to rely on support from Blackburn Police. He also encouraged residents to attend the events and fates put on in Belthorn and Stanhill as these raised funds for the villages and were good community events.

Immanuel Ward

Councillor Addison reported on plans for improvements to Heys Playing Fields and that a planning application for a residential development on Rhoden Road had been refused by the Council’s Planning Committee. She pointed out that the planning application for the windfarm had been approved even though the majority of Oswaldtwistle Ward Councillors had been against the proposal. She reported that an improvement scheme had been approved for Rowen Avenue subject to funding and referred to the concerns of the residents of John Street estate about the problem of electric cables being left exposed. She informed the meeting that Immanuel Church had organised a Walking Day and Fun Day to be held on 13th June at the Cricket Ground.

St. Andrew’s Ward

Councillor Walmsley referred to the success of the improvements that had taken place in Rhyddings Park and to the refurbishment of the White Ash changing rooms.

The Chairman, Councillor Britcliffe, reported that the first Area Management Council walkabout had taken place in Oswaldtwistle and had included representatives from organisations such as the Fire & Rescue Service, the Police and Environmental Health. He reported that they had listened to the complaints and comments from residents and would be acting upon these. He indicated that a further walkabout had been organised for June 2010 and invited residents to suggest a route for the event. He informed the
meeting that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been set up in the Catlow Hall Street area and would benefit the area.

**Lancashire County Council**

County Councillor Younis reported on the problems presented by unadopted roads and reported that the Highways Liaison Meeting had given consideration on how to deal with the problems created by them. He referred to the type of materials that would be required for surfaces and which could also be used to fill in dangerous potholes which had increased in number after the recent severe weather.

County Councillor Britcliffe reported that in his capacity as a County Councillor he had endeavoured to make a case for Lancashire County Council to make improvements to the highways of Oswaldtwistle. He also reported that the residents of Queens Street had requested that the quality of street lighting was improved and that a grant had been awarded to the Community Church, Union Road towards installing a stair lift.

**Police Update**

P.C. Jacks, Community Beat Manager for Oswaldtwistle, and P.C. Walsh, Community Beat Manager for Knuzden provided a Police progress report since the last meeting of the Area Management Council. P.C. Jacks introduced the new team members including those appointed to manage Knuzden. She gave statistical information on the number of crimes/incidents reported to the Police in comparison with those recorded during the same time in 2009. She reported that there had been a number of burglaries on Fielding Lane and High Street which the Police were continuing to investigate. She explained that they had also worked with a number of agencies to target and reduce problems in youth behaviour and encouraged residents to work with the Police to prevent or reduce crime in their area.

**Victim Support**

Michael Porter, Victim Support for East Lancashire, reported on the problem of ‘Sneak-in burglaries’ and warned residents to ensure that the doors to their properties were always locked, even if they were still in the house. He also warned residents against allowing bogus callers into their homes and advised on how to prevent these problems.

**Grants and Budgets**

The Chair referred residents to Paper E of the agenda for information regarding grants and budgets. He gave details of the schemes and grants that had been approved through the Council’s emergency powers procedure and which had been approved at previous meetings during the municipal year 2009/10. He reported that the total capital budget remaining was £ 6,742.97 and revenue funding was £282.00 and reported that the following new schemes and grants would be considered:-

- Garden Street resident only parking scheme - £1,000 (capital)
- Church & Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club for the purchase of a colour printer - £500 (capital)
- Lancashire Constabulary Easter event prizes - £97.50 (revenue)
- Off street car parking - £10,000 (capital)
- Hanging Baskets – up to £2,200 (revenue)
Agreed

(1) That Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council approved the following grant applications for capital funding:-
   • Garden Street ‘resident only parking’ scheme - £1,000
   • Church & Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club for the purchase of a colour printer - £500

(2) That Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council approved in principle subject to the remaining funding from the 2009/10 Budget and adequate funding from the 2010/11 Budget, the following grant application for capital funding:-
   • Off Street Car Parking – set aside £10,000

(3) That Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council approved the following grant applications for revenue funding:-
   • Lancashire Constabulary for Easter event prizes - £97.50
   • St. Paul’s School Clock - £206

(4) That Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council approved in principle subject to adequate funding from the 2010/11 Budget, the following grant applications for revenue funding:-
   • Hanging Baskets - £2,200

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the Oswaldtwistle Area Management Council meeting and reported that the next meeting would be held on 13th July, 2010. The venue to be confirmed.