

Clayton-Le-Woods North Area Forum

Wednesday, 21 June 2006

at Clayton Brook Village Hall, Great Greens Lane, Clayton-Le-Woods

Present: Councillor Alan Cullens (Chair), Councillor Peter Baker

Also present: Councillors John Walker (Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal), Doreen Dickinson and Tony Moreton (Head of Passenger Transport - Lancashire County Council)

Co-opted Members: County Councillor Mrs E Livesey (Lancashire County Council), PS Christina Shorrock (Lancashire Constabulary), Liz Easterbrook (Chorley and South Ribble PCT), Ray Ormston (Clayton-Le-Woods Parish Council) and Eileen Whiteford (Clayton-Le-Woods Parish Council Clerk)

Chorley Borough Officers: Donna Hall (Chief Executive), Keith Allen (Interim Head of Public Space Services), Andy Brown (Greenspace Co-ordinator), Lorraine Cross (Leisure Services Manager), Kevan Barton (Neighbourhood Warden), Stephen Griffiths (Neighbourhood Warden) and Ruth Hawes (Democratic Services Officer)

25 residents of Clayton-Le-Woods

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Cullens welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the co-opted members and officers from Chorley Borough and Lancashire County Council. He especially welcomed the children from Clayton Brook Primary School who had come along to give a presentation about the Junior Neighbourhood Warden Scheme.

Councillor Cullens explained that this was the second Area Forums pilot in this area.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Magda Cullens, Greg Morgan (Executive Member for Resources) Lindsay Hoyle (MP) and Mr. G Butler.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the initial meeting of the Clayton-Le-Woods North Area Forum held on 16 March 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. JUNIOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME

The children from Clayton Brook Primary School gave a presentation on the Junior Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme with their teachers.

The presentation explained that the scheme showed the children that they could make a difference in the community and improve the quality of life for everyone in the area. The children each had a passport and when they completed a theme they received a stamp for their passport.

On behalf of the meeting Councillor Cullens thanked the children and their teachers for an excellent presentation.

5. "YOU SAID, WE DID"

Donna Hall explained that each property in the area had received an Area Forum newsletter. This outlined the actions taken arising from questions and comments raised at the last meeting. It was noted that while not every problem could be resolved, the Council and partners would do their best to action the issues.

Some of the issues had concerned bin crews, recycling containers, juvenile nuisance, motorcyclists, speed cameras, dumped litter and rubbish.

A detailed schedule was distributed highlighting the action taken in respect of individual queries.

6. KEY ISSUES FOR CLAYTON-LE-WOODS NORTH - OPEN DISCUSSION

The Chair explained that a period of 30 minutes had been allocated to allow local residents to raise questions and express views on any matters relating to the provision of local services. Question cards were available to enable residents to document their questions and views.

Officers and Partner representatives responded directly to queries and issues where possible. Where this was not possible the details were noted and a written response was sent to the resident.

The following list summarises the issues and questions that were raised directly or via question cards at the meeting:

- The area covered by the Area Forum Pilot Scheme
- Traffic calming and road safety measures in several places
- How information and decisions would be fed back to residents on the above
- Road signage obscured by trees
- Issues with chicanes being damaged or causing obstruction
- The skateboard park and play area in Clayton Brook
- Issues relating to pavements
- Opening times for Astley Hall.

7. CHORLEY COMMUNITY AGENDA

(a) Chorley Borough Council Issues

Lorraine Cross and Andy Brown gave a short presentation on play and leisure facilities in the area.

The Clayton Green sports centre and the village hall hosted keep fit, trampolining, football and other activities for children. The Council co-ordinated the "get up and go" scheme, providing low cost activities. The summer programme was currently under consideration, but would include football, cricket and dance. Information would be available via leaflets and the Council's website: www.chorley.gov.uk.

The management of play areas, football pitches, green space and the provision of facilities was an important issue for the Council. There were investigations into large facilities e.g. on a village green away from properties with ball courts, multi-use play areas and organized activities. These would be well lit and close to footpaths for safety.

A facility was under consideration, but funding in particular needed to be addressed. The children would be involved in the design to help them take ownership and hopefully to draw the community together. Communication and funding were

highlighted as key points. It was noted that the scheme was progressing as quickly as possible.

There would be smaller informal play areas in other areas and facilities to cater for children of all ages.

Councillor Cullens thanked the officers for their presentation.

(b) Lancashire County Council Issues

Tony Moreton gave a short presentation on public transport issues.

It was explained that schools buses, social care transport and commercial buses were commissioned through the Passenger Transport Directorate.

Tony outlined the commercial services in the area and explained that several million pounds per year were spent on supporting services, including school services. If an operator withdrew a commercial service as no longer being commercially viable officers would decide whether to support the service.

The Forum discussed other issues such as community transport and the provision of the dial-a-ride service and the conversion to single decker accessible vehicles through partnership working. It was noted that the new bus station had been funded in partnership with Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council.

Several specific issues were raised in relation to the 126 and 118 service and the free bus passes scheme.

Councillor Cullens thanked Tony Moreton for his presentation.

(c) Clayton-Le-Woods Parish Council Issues

No issues were raised by the Parish Council.

(d) Lancashire Police Issues

Police Sergeant Christina Shorrock gave a short presentation on the Operation Summer Nights scheme.

The scheme was a force wide initiative aiming to tackle and prevent antisocial behaviour between May and September by bringing together organisations involved in dealing with anti-social behaviour. The focus was on alcohol and related crimes. The scheme was linked with the World Cup.

In 2005 the scheme was successful, with reductions seen in recorded and violent crime. 84% of people asked in a survey said that the campaign had made them feel more reassured.

In response to a query it was clarified that if a person were believed to be giving alcohol to an underage child the alcohol would be confiscated.

Councillor Cullens reminded the Forum of the need to use barbeques safely and to be vigilant against thefts from garages and sheds. It was highlighted that homeowners were not insured if doors and windows are open and the property was burgled.

Councillor Cullens thanked Christina Shorrock for her presentation.

8. FEEDBACK/ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their questions and queries and invited the attendees to complete a feedback card to comment on the format and arrangements of the meeting and to submit views for consideration at the next meeting.

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

Councillor Cullens confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be 12 October 2006. It was noted that the venue was under consideration.

Chair