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# PEEL & BARNFIELD AREA MEETING

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**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

**Present:** Councillor Wendy Dwyer (in the Chair); Councillors Bernard Dawson and June Harrison.

**In attendance:**

**Officers:** Michael Cunliffe (Democratic Services)

**Residents:** (No. of residents in attendance: 24)

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## **WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor Wendy Dwyer welcomed residents to the Peel and Barnfield meeting.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Tony Dobson, Councillor Clare Pritchard, County Councillor Graham Jones, Danny Cassidy, Mortimers Estate Agents, Reverend Ernie Hall and Ann Roberts (HBC Area Working Co-ordinator).

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared.

## **COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### WENDY DWYER (PEEL WARD)

- Councillor Dwyer reported on the recent 'Go Peel' event and that the promotion was a success. One of the organisers, Joyce Plummer provided the meeting with further information on all the activities on behalf of Councillor Dwyer.
- A resident asked if there was an age limit for children to be involved playing netball at the event. Councillor Dwyer commented that young children were allowed to take part and not turned away if they lived locally. There had been an increase in the numbers attending and the plan is to repeat the event next year.

### BERNARD DAWSON (PEEL WARD)

- Councillor Dawson also reported on the 'Go Peel' event and also commented that it had been some time since the last public Peel and Barnfield Area Meeting.

- There was money available in the budget for grants and the selective licensing scheme would impact on rented homes in the Peel and Barnfield areas. If implemented it would make a difference and significant changes could occur in the area as other parts of the Borough had been allocated more funding for improvements in the past.

#### JUNE HARRISON (BARNFIELD WARD)

- Councillor Harrison placed on record her thanks to Joyce Plummer with her involvement in the 'Go Peel' event.
- The roundabout at the top of Sandy lane near St Anne's and St Joseph's Primary School would be investigated to see if visual improvements could be made.
- Land at the rear of Woodnook Primary School was being considered as a possible new play area.
- Regeneration plans would hopefully improve the area and increase property prices whilst housing related grants may become available in the next 12 months.

A number of residents asked questions which included:

- Clarifying that the Peel Park area is in the Huncoat ward of the Borough, this was due to the number of people required for the electoral register and Alice Street was the dividing line between Peel and Huncoat.
- Could Ben Hargreaves Primary School had been used to host the 'Go Peel' event.
- The new paths and benches on the Coppice look nice and are a good use of funds.

The Chair commented that Huncoat Area Council would be approached and consulted regards contributions to funding for future events in Peel which involved residents from the Huncoat area.

#### **LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE- GRAHAM JONES**

Councillor Dawson provided a brief update regarding Lancashire County Council matters on behalf of County Councillor Jones who was unable to attend the meeting.

This included information and updates on:

- Planned roadworks in the 2012/13 LCC Capital programme for Hyndburn which involved the Peel and Barnfield areas. Resurfacing schemes, cycleway improvements and other works were scheduled for a number of roads in the area.
- Work on a new bus station in Accrington town centre would progress under the Pennine Reach scheme and would see a move from Peel Street to Crawshaw Street.

#### **POLICE UPDATE**

The Chair informed residents at the meeting that an error in communications with the police had resulted in them not being present as they had received a different date for the meeting.

Resident Joyce Plummer spoke about a campaign targeting young people and alcohol, run in conjunction with the police. This involved picking up under age children off the streets who may be at risk as a result of alcohol misuse and test purchasing from shops. She provided residents with local examples of children who had encountered the service and the protocols followed.

A number of residents and Councillors asked questions including:

- A resident reported that there is an alcohol free zone sign near the Kings Arms public house although there are lots of empty alcohol bottles on St Ledger Court. Cannabis is used in the area and on Birtwistle Street a needle was found on the grassed area. The resident was advised to forward on the details so action could be taken.
- Councillor Harrison reported that Arden Hall was targeted recently with anti- social behaviour.
- A resident enquired what happens to shops selling alcohol to under age people.
- Another resident commented that the police are doing a good job and even stopped her son late at night after he was returning home from work.
- One resident asked if there was a link with children not attending school and underage drinkers. Another asked what procedures are in place when drugs are involved.

Details of contact numbers for the police were given along with crimestoppers information. The Chair thanked Joyce Plummer for the update and the work undertaken by the Community Alcohol Network team.

**BUDGET AND GRANTS**

The Chair referred residents to the Peel and Barnfield budget and grants report 2012/2013 attached to the agenda.

Capital Budget for 2012/2013	£22,000.00
Capital Budget c/f from 2011/2012 not committed	£20,930.00
Total Capital Budget Available	£42,930.00

Revenue Budget for 2012/2013	£3,400.00
Revenue Budget c/f from 2011/2012 not committed	£2,025.00
Total Revenue Budget Available	£5,425.00

Revenue Budget c/f from 2011/2012 committed	£650.00
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Expenditure 2012/2013

Capital		
Peel, Councillor Bernard Dawson		
Coppice Benches	Amount Spent	£141.25
	Total Expenditure	£141.25
	Budget Remaining	£10,683.75

Capital		
Peel, Councillor Wendy Dwyer		
Coppice Benches	Amount Spent	£141.25
	Total Expenditure	£141.25
	Budget Remaining	£10,683.75

Capital		
Barnfield, Councillor Tony Dobson		
Incredible Edible- Grant	Amount Spent	£255.00
Oakhill Bowling Club (Fence)	Amount Spent	£500.00
	Total Expenditure	£755.00
	Budget Remaining	£9,990.00

Capital		
Barnfield, Councillor June Harrison		
Incredible Edible- Grant	Amount Spent	£255.00
Oakhill Bowling Club (Fence)	Amount Spent	£500.00
	Total Expenditure	£755.00
	Budget Remaining	£9,990.00

Revenue		
Peel, Councillor Bernard Dawson		
NEAT Street Clean Up (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£50.00
Peel Residents Grant Bike Security (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£175.00
Community Clean Up- St John's (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£100.00
Go Peel	Amount Spent	£200.00
Trinity Community Church- Luncheon Club	Amount Spent	£25.00
	Total Expenditure	£550.00
	Budget Remaining	£1,035.00

Revenue		
Peel, Councillor Wendy Dwyer		
NEAT Street Clean Up (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£50.00
Peel Residents Grant Bike Security (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£175.00
Community Clean Up- St John's (c/f 2011/12)	Amount Spent	£100.00
Go Peel	Amount Spent	£200.00
Trinity Community Church- Luncheon Club	Amount Spent	£25.00
	Total Expenditure	£550.00
	Budget Remaining	£1,035.00

Revenue		
Barnfield, Councillor Tony Dobson		
The Friendship Club	Amount Spent	£50.00
Hail & Ride Leaflets	Amount Spent	£15.00
Trinity Community Church- Luncheon Club	Amount Spent	£25.00
	Total Expenditure	£90.00
	Budget Remaining	£1,315.00

Revenue		
Barnfield, Councillor June Harrison		
The Friendship Club	Amount Spent	£50.00
Hail & Ride Leaflets	Amount Spent	£15.00



## WOODNOOK

Councillor Harrison talked about the regeneration scheme from Nuttall Street upwards which should start in December.

A number of residents then commented and asked questions on the scheme and the Councillors present at the meeting answered questions to the best of their knowledge.

Questions included:

- What happens if a landlord is not willing to invest money on upgrading a property.
- Two empty houses on Avenue Parade and a property on Park Street had been left in a poor condition, what can be done.
- The vacant chemist store on Avenue Parade looked in a bad state, does it have a new owner.
- A resident mentioned that the above problems had been discussed at recent resident association meetings.
- Many issues had been dealt with including replacement of a man hole cover.
- A local businessman in Woodnook stated that residents in the area are unable to afford an outlay of capital but want their homes and the area regenerated. Can HBC pay for the entire costs and a legal agreement is drawn up that when the houses are sold HBC would receive their investment back.
- Can local companies and tradesmen be used for building work to provide jobs in the area.

Councillor Harrison reported that HBC had recently acquired the flats on Nuttall Street and the public house would be turned into a drop in centre.

## LANDLORD LICENSING

The Chair reported that the landlord licensing scheme was planned to start in December and would include certain areas of the Peel and Barnfield areas.

A discussion then took place in the meeting room amongst residents present, many questioned the scheme and raised concerns that it had previously failed.

The Chair stated that detailed replies to many of the questions asked could not be given at the meeting as the relevant officers and Cabinet Portfolio Holder were not present to provide the official information to issues raised.

## **PEEL FIRST**

The Chair reported on details of schemes and money spent in the Peel area. This included funds for St John's Church installing a disabled toilet along with trees and bushes being planted in the area.

Details were given regards £8,489 being available to organisations who had a bank account and a constitution. Ideas were welcome to be put forward, which would help the youth, elderly, unemployed and environment in the Peel Park area. Joyce Plummer was also available to help groups form a constitution which would allow for access to funding streams.

**PEEL PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

As stated previously in the meeting, the Chair commented that the Peel Park area is located in the Huncoat ward of the Borough. Lots of improvements had taken place in Peel Park in conjunction with the Forestry Commission and work would also be undertaken with Friends of Arden Hall. This would involve possible gates being installed and improvements to footpaths.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- A resident asked what are the plans for the former Volvo Garage.

It was reported that a business person linked with the Hope Centre in Oswaldtwistle had made enquires about the site. This would involve a range of facilities being available for local people at the location.

- A number of suggestions were made regards seating areas around the Coppice area, this included a stone slab built seat or a bench similar in design to the ones located at the refurbished Accrington Railway Station.

Councillors noted the comments and advised that ideally seats should be fire proof and there is also an installation cost attached to buying a bench.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair thanked residents for attending and advised that the date for the next Peel and Barnfield area meeting would be held in either January or February 2013.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed.