

HAREWOOD AND WETHERBY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday 21 January, 7pm, Thorne Parish Centre

Agenda Items:

Year of the Volunteer

Natasha Mort from Voluntary Action Leeds introduced herself and explained her background in volunteering and that she was championing the Year of the Volunteer for 2010. Road show volunteer centres are to commence in local libraries and Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL) are offering free training for volunteers. They currently already have a list of 250 organisations interested on their database. They are also establishing a Volunteer Compact for Leeds as a beginners guide to use as a tool kit. Natasha felt that it would be useful if each Parish Council could nominate a volunteer champion. For interest in volunteering the e-mail address is volunteering@val.org.uk or Natasha's direct e-mail address is natasha.mort@val.org.uk. A list of scheduled events can be found on the VAL website.

Area Delivery Plan – Focus of Activities

Carole gave an overview of the Area Delivery Plan for 2008/11 and asked that Parish Councillors take time to look at the table of priorities on the wall and indicate what they consider are their priorities by putting a sticker against it. The collated information will then be used to inform the preparation of a refreshed Area Delivery Plan for 2010/11.

Update from Parish and Town Councils

Barwick & Scholes are having difficulties in getting a response to a query to the Council's Legal Department, and felt that this is not in line with the Council and Parish Charter which should be adhered to. Fellow Parish Councillors agreed that the situation with Legal is unsatisfactory and needs great improvement. Cllr Shelbrooke reported that Ward Members had also experienced difficulties but did agree as Chair of this Forum to write to Nick de la Taste and progress the matter further. It was suggested that since there was a complaints procedure within the Charter then this should be used as a way forward

Collingham with Linton reported back that they are attending meetings to try and progress the issues of Parish Councils taking responsibility for grass cutting in their area and asked for ward members support on this issue. Cllr Shelbrooke reported that the issue had been discussed at Area Committee following a report from the Chief Environmental Services Officer about the future procurement of ground maintenance, and a further report had been requested for a future area committee.

Aberford - there have been problems with clearing footpaths and minor roads during the recent bad weather. Is there was any potential to use local contractors who were willing to help. Cllr Shelbrooke agreed to add this as an item on a future Area Committee meeting.

Bardsey cum Rigton –made a request for more grit bins. Cllr Shelbrooke reported that there would be a cost to the Parish Council both for the purchase of the bins and their ultimate replenishment. A discussion about the recent bad weather and the use of grit/salt under health and safety regulations was discussed.

It was reported that Parish Council's have been invited to nominate volunteers to sit on a Highways Charter working group.

Items discussed under Any Other Business

Shaun Macklin from the Youth Service introduced himself to the Forum and asked if information could be sent through to him about what voluntary youth provision is held in each village so he can make contact with them. He would also like to know which villages have no provision at all to enable him to look at outreach work or the mobile bus. He would also like to know of possible venues the Youth Service could use in the villages.