

Pudsey & Swinnow Forum

Date: 18th May 2010

Chair: Councillor Jarosz

Present: Clare Wiggins (Area Management), Chris Hodgson (Parks and Countryside), PCSO Mick Cox and PC Jenny Norris (West Yorkshire Police), Audrey Prince, Yvonne Robinson, Kevin Robinson, Mrs M Hirst, Mrs B Young, John Rider, John Stuart, Graham Walker (Metro), Nigel Conder (Town Centre Manager)

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

Action

1.1 Cllr Jarosz welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jack Prince, Phil Staniforth and Peter Quince.

2.0 Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 The issue of lighting in Swinnow Co-op car park and also the community centre car park was raised as a problem. CW had raised these with relevant agencies but agreed to follow up to ensure action. CW

2.3 It was noted that Grangefield and Crawshaw schools were seeking trust status.

2.4 It was confirmed that the Kent Road traffic light works had commenced on 29th March lasting a maximum period of 20 weeks. The work was due to include some carriageway resurfacing by the maintenance contractor but unfortunately the maintenance work cannot be done as programmed. The signals at this junction were switched on on Tuesday 3rd August and the road markings were completed on Monday 9th August. Cllr Lewis explained the section 106 and 278 processes.

2.5 Cllr Jarosz advised residents to attend the planning site visit re the Park Hotel this Thursday.

2.6 The Pudsey Carnival was publicised. There would be a parade from Victoria Road at 12 noon. The Civic Society would be attending.

3.0 Police update

3.0 The forum congratulated Mick Cox on being nominated for West Yorkshire PCSO of the year. He will now go forward to the national final in November in London. Cllr Jarosz commented that this was a fantastic achievement.

3.1 The Police reported on crime statistics in the Pudsey area including 1 theft of vehicle, 37 thefts from vehicles, 19 burglary (other), 15 burglary dwellings (5 through open doors), 6 'hannoy' (stealing car keys), 35 criminal damage including Pudsey Park..

3.2 Mick Cox offered postcode marking pens for people to mark their property especially items in sheds such as lawnmowers.

CW raised the issue that groups at Swinnow Community Centre e.g. the dance club and Sunshine Club were experiencing severe ASB. PCSO Mick Cox assured the forum that he would support groups based there, alongside the ASBU. He reported that an excellent charity event had taken place at the centre recently.

3.4 ASB was also reported on Post Hill including drinking and smoking cannabis and illegal camping which is prevented by bylaws. The Police reported that this firm approach is working. ASB was on the increase due to the improved weather. PC Jenny Norris explained that she was trying to offer alternatives to young people through for example 'Project Wateringcote' in the Owlcotes / Waterloos area behind Inghams Avenue on the site of the old park. This involves improving the area through creation of raised beds and planting. Reward activities will then follow. CW to provide the Police with a small grant application form.

CW

3.5 Mick Cox explained that he was trying to develop a similar project with young people on the Swinnow estate on a site adjacent to Swinnow Primary School. This will involve reclaiming 2/3 of the site and incorporating it into the school grounds. Leeds College of Building will get involved and the area will be used to grow vegetables for the school to use. Firstly the land needs to be transferred to the school.

PCSO
MC

3.6 Chris Hodgson (CH) expressed his thanks to the Police for supporting Parks and Countryside in improving the safety and enjoyment of local parks.

4.0 Parks update

4.1 The Swinnow play area timetable is as follows:

- Planning Application returned 19.5.10
- Planning conditions sorted and out to tender 31.5.10
- Tender return:23.6.10
- Chief Officer Approval and Tender Acceptance 26.7.10
- Site Possession: 16.8.10 (nb there will be a lead in time of approx 6 weeks for Contractor to order kit so start on site likely to be around 27.9.10)
- Completion: 26.11.10

- 4.2 Peter Quince is the manager for the new West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre (WLCPVS). There was some discussion about shortcomings of the centre. These included disabled access to the toilets and the centre looking a bit drab currently. CH agreed that access was a bit disappointing but that 2 members of staff would be on site at all times to provide access round the aviaries. Forum members suggested signage was required to clearly direct disabled users. Peter Q would be attending the next Friends of Pudsey Park meeting to provide feedback. CH also stated that the centre has only just opened and its appearance and displays will be enhanced over time. Schools will use the educational room.
- 4.3 CH reported that although the application for the Trees for Cities fund for the periphery of Queens Park was shortlisted, it was unsuccessful. CH to ask the programme manager to e-mail Cllr Lewis on this. CH
- 4.4 CH reported that planting had taken place on the boundary of the WW site.
- 4.5 CH asked CW to ensure that planters are included in both lay-by schemes on Lidget Hill.
- 5.0 Public toilets**
- 5.1 The forum and Pudsey ward Members expressed their frustration with the lack of progress with the public toilet refurbishment. CW agreed to pass this on to Corporate Property Management and seek work starting on site asap. CW
- 6.0 Pudsey in Bloom**
- 6.1 PIB reported that last year the judges had asked the group if they could in future look at enhancing Sparrow Park. This had been done with £900 from Pudsey Civic, £700 from PIB and £1000 from the allotments. Work undertaken was to remove the rose beds, add herbaceous and sensory plants and seating. More funding may be required and CW explained that as PIB had already received Area Committee funding this year, another group could apply for further small grant funding. PC J Norris advised that she was aware of a young man that could get involved. The scheme would need to be attractive but not labour intensive for maintenance. CW
JN / CH
- 7.0 Nigel Conder – Town Centre Manager (TCM)**
- 7.1 NC explained at promoted the Reward Card scheme and ‘shopinpudsey’ website. The Shop Local magazine was now self-financing and the Pudsey Business Forum is going well with around 20 businesses attending.
- 7.2 The Artsmix market has moved to Saturdays to combine with the regular market, which has worked to a degree. Entertainment will be provided over the year including ‘suitcase circus’ two teddy bears picnics, a Christmas market and santa’s grotto. NC is looking into marketing

options such as bus advertising, Radio Aire, a marketing strategy and the Telegraph and Argus as there have been problems with the Pudsey Times as the editor sees the shop local magazine as a rival publication.

7.3 NC is trying to actively market empty units such as Quicksilver and in the meantime, looking into the possibility of introducing 'art in unusual spaces'.

7.4 Cllr Jarosz and some members of the forum expressed the fact that they would like more short stay spaces in the leisure centre car park as these were useful for accessing the doctors and chemist etc.

8.0 Bus station update

8.1 Graham Walker from Metro provided an update. There is still a delay of around 4-5 weeks due to the bad weather earlier in the year and the live cable issue. The contractor is still confident that they can re-programme the Highways works to pull back some time. It is still anticipated that the scheme will be completed late September / early October. Junction improvements to Church Lane to create the new traffic flow arrangements will start in the next 3-4 weeks. The stop outside Boots will relocate to outside the post office. Kerb re-alignment works will then commence and be phased around Market Place and then the flow can be reversed at which point buses can use the central island stops.

8.2 Members of the forum expressed some concerns about how the scheme would work in practice. GW confirmed that full scale bus tests had been carried out to ensure the scheme would operate effectively – it is all tried and tested. The forum were pleased that there would be 'real time' information in the bus station.

9.0 AOB

Graham Walker from Metro reported that he had brought his family to Pudsey for a day out and they had enjoyed a very good day out.

10.0 Time and Date of Next Meeting

10.1 Tuesday 14th September, 7pm @ St Andrew's Church