

HAREWOOD AND WETHERBY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday 22nd July, 7pm, Linton Village Hall

Agenda Items:

Update on Planning Issues – Sarah Hallewell attending for this item

Sarah reported on the following:

- National Guidance PPS3: Housing was updated in June 2010. Changes were:
Definition of garden has been excluded from “previously developed land”. There is not assumption that gardens can’t be built on.
- In the new Housing Guidance the minimum density has now been removed.
- The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has been revoked and is no longer a planning consideration.
- The Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside have been abolished in principle. Some issues to be resolved prior to its closure.
- Planning Charter was reviewed earlier in the week. The document is considered fit for purpose. It is still in its early days of coming into operation, some issues still to be looked into further – LDF and Enforcement.
- Enforcement – the flow of information has been raised as an issue still. Comments are sought on how a quarterly update can be provided on enforcement cases in areas and in what format. Any questions or suggestions are to be send to Sarah Hellewell.
- Public Access - further training to be provided by Alison Howarth who will be in touch to organise this
- Planning Objections – Sarah is obtaining clarification on this issue as generic letters and petitions submitted on planning application are all registered and noted in the report , for example, 50 generic letters will be noted in the officers report as having received 50 generic letters raising the points; individual names on one petition will be noted as such. Once clarified, Sarah to notify Town and Parish Councils.

Community Safety Issues – Inspector Marcus Griffiths attended for this item

There was nothing to report under this item but it was decided to open the floor for questions. Issues raised were:

What affect would the Government’s financial savings have on the NPT and what reduction is expected in the number of PCSO’s in the villages? Inspector Griffiths’ response was that the only way they would be affected was if partnership funding was reduced. At the moment there were 12 PCSO’s, 10 of whom were funded by LCC and he felt the NPT budget was as “lean” as it can be.

Permitted Development Rights for Householders – Helen Farrer attended for this item

Helen gave a comprehensive presentation on the rights of householders when developing their property. A hard copy was circulated for information giving detailed drawings and explanations of what is and what is not allowed. Further copies can be obtained from Helen if required.

Well Being Fund Update

During the 2009/10 financial year the Area Committee contributed Wellbeing funding to a whole range of projects and activities. A list previously circulated for information was discussed.

Update from Parish and Town Councils

- Thorner – concerns expressed about Planning Officers refusal to sign off the design statement due to it not yet being adopted. Sarah explained that the supplementary planning guide is still in draft and as such, does not carry any weight yet.
- East Keswick – reported that the road was being done at last.
- Bardsey – refurbishment of the sports facility is now complete.
- Bramham – a decision is expected imminently on the proposal for a new bio mass electricity sub station.
- Aberford – the funding is now in place for the Master Plan 2010 - 20 as replacement for the current Parish plan. The problems with the new street lights and hanging baskets have now been resolved.
- Shadwell – still having problems with the street lights. SF to refer to Cllr Robinson to progress.
- Collingham and Linton – still no progress with the Old Mill and the felling of trees in Goss Wood. The Lady Hastings Trust, who own both the Mill and the Wood, still refusing to discuss with the Parish Council. Cllr Procter suggested that as well as approaching the Charities Commission, Charter Jonas also be written to.
- Wetherby – the new Enforcement officers are having a purge on 'A' boards in the town centre.
- Boston Spa – biggest concern still is the public enquiry into the Church Fields development.
- Thorp Arch – gulleys on the bridge still not cleared. Cllr Lam has agreed to progress the issue on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Clifford – problems with street lighting still ongoing due to the change of painting contractor. Should be resolved shortly.
- Scarcroft – a summer event was organised at the Bracken Fox but concerns were raised by the Police regarding safety. It was also brought to their attention that in order to run such events a temporary events license was needed. In order to run the event, it had to be moved to the beer garden.

A1(M) Issues

No further issues to be raised. However agreed to leave as a regular agenda item for the time being until the project is completed and signed off by the contractor.

Parish Council Boundaries: Collingham and Linton wish to look at their parish boundary and asked if other parish councils would find it beneficial for an officer from the Electoral Reform Office be asked to attend a future meeting of the Forum. It was agreed that an officer be invited to attend the next meeting in October.

Grass Cutting: At Executive Board on 22nd June it was agreed that "approval be given to the contract being advertised on the basis of one, single city-wide contract, with the option to require a variant bid to allow interested parish or town councils to tender for work within their areas". It was agreed that the officer responsible for the contract be invited to attend the next meeting in October.

Dog Fouling: it was reported that a consultation is currently taking place regarding the proposals to introduce new orders to ensure public safety and cleanliness in areas. The consultation is taking place until the 31st August – contact details circulated.

Discarding of litter – a question was asked about people discarding litter from vehicles. It was thought that if Environmental Enforcement was notified it would be followed up and a fine issued. Area Management will clarify the situation and inform the parish councils.