

Burnley Three Tier Forum

Note of the Meeting held on Monday, 2nd September, 2013 at 6.30 pm in Committee Rooms 2 and 3 at the Town Hall, Burnley

Present:

Chair

Councillor W Khan, Burnley Borough Council

Forum Members

County Councillor M Brindle, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dr M Hassan, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor M Johnstone, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor T Martin, Lancashire County Council
County Councillor J Sumner, Lancashire County Council
Councillor J Cunningham, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor L Pate, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor C Towneley, Burnley Borough Council
Parish Councillor Ms G Smith, representing Parish and Town Councils in Burnley.

Also in attendance

Mr H Ballantyne, Locality Officer, LCC Environment Directorate.
Mr M Neville, Senior Committee Support Officer, LCC Office of the Chief Executive.
Mr T Forshaw, Head of the Chief Executives Office, Burnley Borough Council.

1. Election of Chair

Mr Ballantyne welcomed the new County Councillors who had joined the Forum following the local elections in May and the Borough Council representatives who had been appointed to serve on the Forum since the previous meeting.

As the previously elected Chair and Deputy Chair were both no longer members of the Forum Mr Ballantyne asked for nominations for the appointment of a Chair for the meeting.

Agreed – That Councillor W Khan be appointed as the Chair of the Forum for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor T Porter and also from Mr M Cartledge, the Director of Community Services at Burnley Borough Council.

3. Note of the last meeting

Agreed - That the Note of the meeting held on the 18th March 2013 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Action Sheet update from the Last Meeting

In considering the Action Sheet members of the Forum made the following comments.

1. An update was requested in relation to the speed measurements which had been planned in the Brunshaw area and any associated enforcement action.
2. With regard to the highway works on Trafalgar Street in Burnley it was suggested that consideration be given to the introduction of some form of screening in the vicinity of the KFC to prevent motorists being blinded by the headlights of other vehicles.
3. It was recognised that the traffic signal scheme which had been introduced on the Gannow Roundabout had been successful in improving traffic flow and reducing congestion. It was also noted that a similar scheme for the second roundabout was included in the capital programme for 2014/15.
4. With regard to Pendle Way it was suggested that consideration be given to removing the current chevron road markings or some other form of works to provide an additional lane which would assist in reducing congestion which resulted in vehicles being backed up along the road.
5. The existing priority restrictions in Daneshouse were discussed and it was noted that the measures had been originally introduced in response to the high level of through traffic and following several accidents. It was recognised that whilst the measures had been successful in reducing the number of accidents there was merit in reassessing the effectiveness of the current restrictions and considering possible alternative traffic calming features

It was recognised that the traffic associated with the nearby university campus would require the retention of some form of traffic calming. In response to comments about the behaviour of some motorists when negotiating the existing chicanes Mr Ballantyne informed the meeting that whilst Officers and the Police met regularly the existing traffic calming had not been identified as a major issue.

It was noted that the Action Sheet referred to proposals being developed for the roads concerned and it was agreed that the Forum should be consulted on any proposed changes to the existing traffic calming measures.

Agreed: That the comments of the Forum as set out above be noted and where appropriate further information/updates be provided via the Action Sheet.

5. 2013/14 Quarter 1 Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard.

In considering the Dashboard the following matters were discussed by the members of the Forum.

1. Whilst acknowledging that 99% of potholes had been fixed within 30 days of being identified during Quarter 1 there was some concern that in places such as Cog Lane and Hunters Drive where the carriageway had been resurfaced patches had appeared along the central 'seam' between the lanes.
2. Since opening in June the Fennyfold Community Garden in Padiham had been subject to vandalism and as a result the introduction of CCTV was being pursued.
3. The developments relating to the Todmorden Curve and Manchester Road Railway Station were welcomed. However, there was some concern that the existing train services would not be able to cope with the potential increase in demand which would arise from these measures. In response Mr Ballantyne referred to the comments set out in the Action Sheet regarding plans by Northern Rail to provide an additional 2 car diesel unit and for key services to/from Manchester to operate using two 2-car units, thereby providing extra capacity. It was also reported that depending on demand for the new service it would be possible to look at selective strengthening in the future as more diesel units became available or to provide an improved frequency at peak times.

It was also suggested that some of the carriages used on the Blackpool to Colne service were of a poor quality and should be replaced and that any monitoring of usage of train services should be done at a time when it would take account of the increased demand associated with the University.

4. A request was made for Bancroft Road and other roads in the vicinity of the Lancashire Digital Technology Park to be monitored in order to assess the impact of traffic associated with the Park and the two nearby schools on the local area.

Agreed: That the comments set out above are noted and where appropriate responses provided to the members of the Forum outside of the meeting.

6. 2014/15 Environment Directorate Draft Commissioning Plan for Burnley

When considering potential items for the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan members of the Forum raised the following matters.

- a) The likely impact of the current economic climate on subsidised bus services with particular regard to the Little Red Bus Service which operated in Padiham and the X43 Service which operated between Burnley and Manchester.
- b) That consideration be given to the viability of providing a more frequent service on the Bleak House circular bus route which currently had one bus every 90 minutes and only served half of the Rosehill area.

- c) The need for enforcement action to be taken against motorists who park in cycle lanes.
- d) It was noted that the Borough Council was working with Transdev to produce an illuminated version of the bus timetable.
- e) A number of issues relating to unadopted roads in the Borough, including the following:
 - Kingsland Road in Burnley wood.
 - Marsh Street in Daneshouse.
 - St Annes Street, Padiham.
 - Thompson Street (central section) Burnley.
 - The unnamed access to Hapton C of E Methodist Primary School off Manchester Road, Burnley.
- f) Exploring the provision of funding from Government and elsewhere to improve/extend cycle routes and multi user paths across the Borough in order to promote recreation/tourism and the rural economy.
- g) The possibility of linking existing cycle routes in order to create a Borough wide route similar to the Guild Wheel in Preston.
- h) The need for improved communication between Officers and the County Council and Borough Council to ensure that user groups are consulted before existing bridleways are resurfaced.
- i) The need for road markings in the vicinity of some schools to be repainted, with specific locations to be reported to Mr Ballantyne for attention. It was also suggested that there should be increased enforcement action to discourage motorists parking in the vicinity of schools.

Agreed:

1. That the above comments be noted and where appropriate responses provided to the members of the Forum.
2. That the following items are included as priorities in the 2014/15 commissioning Plan for Burnley.
 - The installation of a second set of traffic signals at the Gannow Roundabout.
 - A review of the effectiveness of the existing traffic calming measures in Daneshouse and consideration of amendments to the scheme in the light of the findings of such a review.

7. Items raised by members of the Forum

The Forum received an update on the County Councils position regarding Historical Creation Agreements/Legal Event Orders and was informed that in view of the limited resources available Officers believed it was reasonable to focus on those routes that may or will be lost if nothing was done ahead of the Governments 2026 deadline rather than to divert resources to save those rights which are not considered to be in danger. It was also noted that the situation would continue to be monitored and reviewed ahead of the deadline and as further legislation/guidance becomes available.

The Forum recognised that in the current economic climate it was unlikely that resources would be diverted towards the issue. However, it was suggested that in the meantime a group of volunteers based at the Lancashire Records Office could be approached to see if they would be willing to take part in a research project using the archives to gather information/evidence in relation to the routes in question.

In addition it was suggested that the County Council approach other authorities with a view to lobbying the Government for an extension to the 2026 deadline.

Agreed:

1. That the possibility of volunteers at the Lancashire Records Office being used as resource to research the archives in relation to information/evidence in relation to the routes in question.
2. That an approach be made to the County Council Network to lobby the Government with a view to extending the 2026 deadline associated with Historical Creation Agreements and Legal Event Orders.

8. Themes for future meetings

- Concern was expressed regarding the number of pupils on roll at local schools and the lower than anticipated entrants to the UTC and it was suggested that a report be brought to a future meeting regarding surplus school places across the Borough.
- Details of the number of local children who attended faith schools outside the Borough were requested.
- A report was requested in relation to the numbers of Looked after Children who had been moved into the Borough and what, if any, impact this had on local services.
- It was suggested that reports on services provided by the Children and Young People/Adult and Community Services Directorates should also be brought to the Forum.

Agreed: That the Chair and Locality Officer consider the inclusion of reports on the themes set out above on the agenda for future meetings.

9. Urgent Business

Mr Ballantyne reported that the future operation of 3 Tier Forums had been discussed at the recent meeting of the County Councils Management Group who had asked that each Forum be consulted on how they would like to see the role of the meetings developed in the future.

In discussing the issue the members of the Forum raised a number of issues, including delegated power, devolved budgets, the frequency of meetings and future involvement of the public.

Agreed: That the County Councils Management Group be advised that the Burnley 3 Tier Forum would want the following issues to be considered in relation to the future development of the role/operation of all Forums.

- Forums to have devolved budgets.
- A wider range of subjects to be discussed at meetings rather than focussing on the Environment Directorate.
- Forums to be open to members of the public.
- More frequent meetings (subject to available resources).

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Forum would be held at 6.30pm on the 25th November 2013 in Committee Rooms 2 and 3 at the Town Hall, Manchester Road, Burnley.

Ian Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston