

## **Rossendale Three Tier Forum**

**Note of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th September, 2013 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup.**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

Councillor C Lamb, Rossendale Borough Council

#### **Forum Members**

County Councillor A Barnes, Lancashire County Council  
County Councillor A Cheetham, Lancashire County Council  
County Councillor J Oakes, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor C Crawforth, Rossendale Borough Council  
Councillor Mrs G Sandiford, Rossendale Borough Council  
Councillor D Smith, Rossendale Borough Council  
Councillor B Wilkinson, Rossendale Borough Council  
Councillor D Barnes, representing Parish and Town Councils in Rossendale

Also in attendance

Mrs H Lockwood, Chief Executive, Rossendale Borough Council.  
Mr H Ballantyne, Locality Officer, LCC Environment Directorate.  
Mr M Neville, Senior Committee Support Officer, LCC Office of the Chief Executive.

Before starting the meeting the Chair welcomed the new County Councillors who had joined the Forum after the local elections in May and the Borough Council representatives who had been appointed to serve on the Forum since the previous meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of County Councillor S Serridge.

### **2. Note of the Last Meeting**

Mr Ballantyne informed the meeting that the monitoring of traffic speeds in Green Lane, Helmshore and Oak Street in Shawforth which were requested at the last meeting had indicated that traffic was travelling at or below the speed limit and so no further action was proposed.

**Agreed:** That the Note of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013 is confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **3. Action Sheet update from the last meeting**

When considering the updates contained in the Action Sheet members of the Forum discussed the following.

- It was reported that an additional £100k had been allocated for patching and resurfacing work on the A671 Rochdale Road at Whitworth in addition to the original £90k for works.
- It was noted that the Haslingden Household Waste Recycling Centre, like other HWRCs across Lancashire, would continue to be monitored to ensure that facilities operated effectively. In response to a comment about the condition of the access road it was reported that access was via a private road which was not maintainable at the public expense.
- A request was made for the existing bus shelter on Bank Street in Rawtenstall to be replaced, possibly by relocating a nearby shelter which was not in use. In response Mr Ballantyne undertook to establish which authority was responsible for the shelter in question and to see if anything could be done to improve/replace it.
- With regard to Quality Bus routes it was noted that the County Council had commissioned a study to look at the Nelson to Rawtenstall route and it was expected that details of any proposals for the route would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.

**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.

#### **4. 2013/14 Quarter 1 Environment Directorate Performance Dashboard**

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

1. With regard to the delay regarding works on Ogden Bridge in Haslingden it was reported that the access arrangements for the temporary bailey bridge which would be in place during the work had been resolved so that hopefully the repairs could commence soon.
2. It was noted that discussions were on going with residents regarding the removal of a number of trees in Thornfield Avenue, Rawtenstall, which were causing damage to footways.

**Agreed:** That the comments set out above are noted and further updates be provided to the members of the Forum via the Action Sheet.

#### **5. 2014/15 Environment Directorate Draft Commissioning Plan for Rossendale**

Members of the Forum welcomed the opportunity to work together to identify priorities for the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan and allocate the limited resources which would be available for the coming year. In response to a query regarding schemes in the 2013/14 programme which had not yet been implemented Mr Ballantyne undertook to circulate to all members of the Forum a copy of the current Commissioning Plan.

When discussing potential priorities the following issues were mentioned by members of the Forum.

- The establishment of a rail link from Rossendale to Greater Manchester as part of the East Lancashire Transport Master Plan.
- Congestion along Manchester Road especially when an accident on the A56 trunk road/bypass caused traffic to be diverted.
- Traffic through Ewood Bridge/Haslingden.
- Improvements to the M66 and at the junction of the motorway and A56 which was felt would benefit motorists both from within and outside of the Borough as this was a major route for traffic heading to/from Manchester, Liverpool and Yorkshire.

**Agreed:**

1. That the above comments be noted and considered as priorities with regard to the 2014/15 Commissioning Plan for Rossendale.
2. That any additional suggestions from the members of the Forum be forwarded to the Chair and Locality Officer as soon as possible for consideration.

**6. Items raised by members of the Forum**

**Roadwork's - how we manage our own repairs and the utilities.**

Mr Ballantyne informed the meeting that County Council and utility companies generally had a good working relationship when it came to planned works as the companies would give up to 3 months notice of when repair works were planned and this allowed sufficient time for the County Council to put in place any necessary traffic management measures and inform other users (such as bus operators and the emergency services) about the work and any alternative routes which may be required. It was also reported that the utility companies were not obliged to give the County Council any notice in relation to unplanned works, particularly when they were in connection with an emergency.

It was noted that information regarding the current 76 road works across the Borough was available via the 'Highways and Transportation' option on the County Councils MARIO system which could be viewed at <http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/default.aspx>. Mr Ballantyne informed the meeting that in addition to the information which was available via the MARIO system local councillors could also email the team responsible for monitoring such works ([swcoordination@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:swcoordination@lancashire.gov.uk)) for further information about any road works in their area.

It was suggested that in future any discussions between the County Council and utility companies regarding repair works should also include representatives from the Borough Council. It was noted that the Borough Council maintained good communication with the County Council regarding major events in the Borough and this enabled measures such as road closures and diversions to be planned well in advance.

It was suggested that in future the utility companies be requested to ensure that when works are being done every effort is made to ensure that access is maintained for all pedestrians, including the disabled and those with prams.

There was also some concern as to the quality of the work done by contractors in order to reinstate the footway/highway after repair works were complete. It was reported that in

Hollin Lane at Constable Lee grids had been covered over with tarmac as part of reinstatement works. In response Mr Ballantyne undertook to provide members with some further information regarding the expected level/standard of any such works outside of the meeting.

A request was also made for gully cleaning in Greenfield Street in order to prevent any flooding.

It was suggested that as some hedges in Market Street, Edenfield, were encroaching onto the highway and interfering with gully cleaning residents should be contacted and reminded that any hedges should be kept cut back to the building line.

**Agreed:** That the above comments are noted.

### **Progress on Rawtenstall bus station/former Valley Centre site.**

It was noted that the design competition for the former valley centre site was underway with the selected architects submitting proposals which would include a new integrated bus station. A judging panel would be established in due course and it was expected that the winner would be announced in October.

It was noted that the existing bus station had been recently damaged when a car had crashed into the building.

**Agreed:** That the above comments are noted.

## **7. Themes for future meetings**

- It was noted that the County Councils budget would be discussed at the next meeting of the Forum and that the Deputy Leader of the County Council and the Head of Finance would attend the meeting.
- A report on the findings of the study in connection with the Quality Bus route between Nelson and Rawtenstall, including the location of any new bus stops/shelters which are to be provided, as requested earlier in the meeting.
- Details of the number of surplus school places in schools across the Borough.
- The findings of an Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on planning applications education/highways contributions.
- The levels of usage of public transport across the Borough.
- Clarification regarding the possible closure of the Registrars in Rossendale and relocation of the service to Hyndburn together with an assessment of the impact of the loss of other services from within the Borough and the belief that local residents can easily access services from neighbouring authorities.

**Agreed:** That the above suggestions for themes to be discussed at future meetings be noted and any other suggestions for topics be forwarded to the Chair and Locality Officer.

## **8. Urgent Business**

It was noted that the County Councils current administration was seeking the views of each 3 Tier Forum as to how they would wish to see the role of the meetings develop in the future.

In discussing the issue the members of the Forum made the following comments

- Forums should be open to members of the public.
- Public be able to address the meeting – possibly through use of a 'Question time'.
- Meetings should be held no more frequently than quarterly.
- The focus of the Forums should remain on strategic issues in order to avoid becoming bogged down by the minutiae of some subjects.
- Consideration be given to Forums having some delegated decision making power and devolved budgets.
- A wider range of subjects to be discussed at meetings rather than focussing on the Environment Directorate.

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

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would be held at 6pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in the Council Chamber at the Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup.

Ian Fisher  
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall  
Preston