

Neighbourhood Council Activities

As we start the New Year it is perhaps appropriate to bring you up to date with the activities that the Council have been involved in and of course the results of the consultation exercise which asked residents what their main issues in the neighbourhood were. As a result of this consultation and the feedback on possible solutions, the Neighbourhood Council have already taken some actions and are considering what else might be done as we start to move through 2017.

Consultation Responses

There were 369 consultation forms returned by residents — thank you to those who took part in helping to shape the future

ISSUE	NO OF RESPONDERS	% OF RESPONSES
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	182	49%
DOG FOULING	173	47%
SPEEDING	163	44%
BUSES	159	43%
ROADS PAVEMENTS	132	36%
CRIME	124	34%
LITTER	111	30%
INCONSIDERATE PARKING	107	29%
FLY TIPPING	88	24%
YOUTH FACILITIES	69	19%
GRASS VERGES	59	16%
TRAFFIC ISSUES	46	12%
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	36	10%
SPORTS LEISURE	34	9%
COMMUNITY EVENTS	34	9%
OPEN SPACE	31	8%
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	30	8%
CANALS WATERWAYS	16	4%
ALLOTMENTS	10	3%

Consultation - The Story So Far

PRIORITY 4 - BUSES - The consultation identified that there was a lack of a bus service on the Barry Avenue estate, the previous service having been withdrawn by Preston Bus a few months ago. Residents attended the December meeting of the Neighbourhood Council and asked what could be done. In response the Clerk of the NC arranged a meeting with Preston Bus to discuss the issue. Two members of the NC also attended this meeting where Preston Bus in response to resident concerns agreed to amend their route so as to include the estate during off peak times and on Saturdays. This was because there was, during off peak times, sufficient capacity within the schedule to incorporate an extended route. During peak times this was not possible. The extended off peak service commenced on 30th January 2016. It was however made clear that since Preston Bus is a commercial organisation they can only run services which are profitable so if this additional service is to remain it must be used.



PRIORITIES 1 & 6 - ASB AND CRIME - The feedback from the consultation identified that CCTV in parts of the neighbourhood might be a solution to help reduce ASB and crime. The NC had already put together a working group to look at the potential for CCTV installations. As a result of resident feedback which identified areas of concern, the Council agreed to re-establish the Granton Walk facilities which had become derelict. They also agreed to install an additional camera looking towards the library where recent incidents had occurred. The group are to look at other potential locations. Whilst CCTV does not necessarily stop incidents it can in many cases help the police with investigations and prosecutions. The police have a direct remote live access to the facilities which helps them in their policing role.

PRIORITY 3 - SPEEDING - Feedback from the consultation identified speeding as the third main issue. A number of areas were identified and suggestions for action included more use of speed cameras and more educational sessions with residents and schools, including the introduction of Community Road Watch Schemes in order to target offenders. The Neighbourhood Council have agreed to purchase and erect additional Speed Indicator Brackets, they will also look at whether they should take over direct responsibility for the management of the Speed Indicator Device which is available to them in the way that some other local Councils already do.

The Story So Far (continued)

PRIORITY 11 - GRASS VERGE MAINTENANCE - At the time of the survey arrangements were being made for the maintenance of local grass verges. These were being transferred from Preston CC back to Lancashire County Council. This led to confusion as to who was responsible for what and during the late summer many of our local verges received no attention leading to some very untidy areas in the neighbourhood. The Clerk to the Neighbourhood Council and County Cllr Bill Winlow arranged to meet with LCC to discuss the issues. As a result and from feedback from Neighbourhood Council members it was possible to draw up and agree a list of LCC responsibilities. This meant that the last cut of 2016 did cover all the required areas and hopefully this will lead to a better service in 2017, although it must be noted that the regularity of cuts will not be as often as it was in previous years.

Other Recent Council Activities

FOOTPATH - BEXHILL CANAL BRIDGE TO HASLAM PARK - The Neighbourhood Council agreed to fund repair works to the aforementioned footpath which was very worn and badly in need of repair. The work was undertaken in conjunction with Preston City Council and Community Payback. As some of the work required the use of a dumper and roller it was necessary to utilise our own lengthsman for some of the works for Health and Safety reasons. The many users of the footpath have said what an improvement it is, especially those with prams etc who could simply not navigate the footpath in its previous condition. It is expected that signage will be placed to acknowledge the high level of partnership working which was involved with the project.



BEFORE



AFTER

Other Recent Council Activities (continued)

BULB PLANTING ON NOG TOW ROUNDABOUT - Once again following a member's suggestion it was agreed that a substantial planting of bulbs should take place on Nog Tow roundabout in order to improve the spring time appearance of the area. An appropriate quotation was received and the works were carried out in early December 2016. We look forward to an exceptional display of crocus and daffodil this coming spring

TREES REPLACED AT CANAL BASIN - Due to previous vandalism the memorial tree placed near to the canal basin was in need of replacement. It was suggested and agreed that TWO replacement trees should be planted and protected by wrought iron tree protectors. These two trees will now act as the memorial to the two youths who died so tragically in the area some years ago.



INGOL DIP MAINTENANCE REVIEW - Following resident concerns with regard to the maintenance regime on Ingol Dip, the clerk arranged a meeting with the hierarchy of Gateway in order to discuss why the area seemed to be in need of some TLC and what could be done to bring the area back to its previous more pleasant open space area. Gateway responded to the meeting by locating the original maintenance agreement and accepted that perhaps they had been amiss in not ensuring that it had been kept to. As a result we now expect the area to be maintained in the future to a better standard. In looking at this issue it was noticed that users of the area have created their own path across part of the grounds, as a short cut. This in itself is not an issue, other than the muddy mess that occurs during wet weather due to the path having no more than a soil base. Members of the NC are investigating what might be done to make the path more permanently usable and of course at what cost. Any recommendations will be placed to a future NC meeting.

Other Recent Council Activities (continued)

CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON EVENT - Our 4th annual community Christmas

Light switch on was attended by hundreds of residents of all ages. The event started with a carol sung by the community in St Margaret's church followed by performances from our 3 local schools and Community Voices. A Prize giving ceremony of book tokens to the winners of this year's competition within our schools then took place. The younger children were asked to design a Christmas Card while the older ones an Advent Calendar, the standard as usual was excellent.



The community then went outside to see the 1st prize winners flick the switch to light up our Christmas Tree. Refreshments of Mulled wine and Mince pies were served

in the church hall and all the children were given a selection box, all of which was provided by Ingol and Tanterton Neighbourhood Council. The organisers Cllrs Liz Soole and Janet Thompson would like to thank St Margaret's Church, the local schools and everybody else who helped to make this event a great success once again

BENCHES AROUND TANTERTON RECREATION GROUND - Following a

suggestion from one of the NC members a consultation exercise took place in order to establish the need for benches in the vicinity of Tanterton Recreation Ground. From the feedback received there was an overwhelming wish that appropriate seating should be installed. The NC have now authorised the purchase of 6 bench type seats which will be installed shortly at locations agreed during the consultation period.



NOTICE BOARD - A new notice board has been purchased and installed on Granton Walk in a prominent position fronting the local shops. The new board has a greater capacity than the old one at St Margaret's Church and subject to final agreement of the NC may provide an opportunity for local groups to advertise their events either for free or for a small charge.



How Does The Council Pay For Its Activities?

As you have now seen the Neighbourhood Council have been very busy recently not only with the undertaking of the recent consultation exercise but also with ideas that have been brought before the Council for approval, aimed at enhancing the area for the benefit of its residents. It goes without saying that these improvements and actions cannot be undertaken without some cost to you the tax payer by way of the local Precept which forms part of your Council Tax. The Precept is a very small portion of the overall Council Tax bill and the Council members are very careful to ensure that what money is raised and spent provides best value to you the tax payer.

At its December meeting it was agreed that the Precept would need to be increased from last year but only to the same level as 2015/2016 which means that you will be paying no more in 2017/2018 than you did two years ago. We hope that you will agree that the improvements recently undertaken fully justify the Precept which is obtained.

On average each household will be paying around 33 pence per week for the benefits so far delivered, although those households in the higher Council Tax brackets will pay more whilst many of you will pay less and indeed in some cases none at all where Council Tax relief is available. In addition the Neighbourhood Council are looking at further efforts and initiatives to address the issues raised from the consultation and later in this edition I will be explaining some of the further thoughts which are being considered at the present time. Specifically funds have been earmarked for a 'Community Warden Scheme' should it be approved at a potential cost of £25K per year and one off costs of £12K to enhance Nog Tow roundabout.

The Neighbourhood Council would like to hear from you in respect of these potential activities/projects, details of which are given below

Please contact the Clerk to the Council (details on back page) with your views and ideas as to how these proposals might work

The Neighbourhood Council are keen to hear from you

Nog Tow Roundabout

A suggestion has been made that the NC should undertake further work to enhance the approach to the area by redesigning the planting on Nog Tow roundabout. Bulb planting was undertaken last year and the fruits of that will be seen in the coming spring. The further works might involve clearing some existing trees, removing existing planting, supplying and planting out 5 new beds and installing uplighters to provide flood lights to the area during the evening.

This idea is still at the investigation stage so please let us know what you think

Community Warden Scheme

The Neighbourhood Council are currently looking to concentrate on further efforts to address some of the key issues raised in the consultation responses:

DOG FOULING / SPEEDING / ASB CRIME / LITTER & FLY TIPPING

Many Councils across the country have introduced a 'Community Warden' scheme where a person probably employed by the Neighbourhood Council would be a visible presence on the streets of the neighbourhood. The role which is under discussion would focus on those high ranking issues identified from the consultation responses, would in many cases act as a go between with the local community and other partners who have direct jurisdiction for some of those issues. This suggestion is still in the investigation stage.

This would be about working together to obtain an improved well-being or betterment for our community.

The Neighbourhood Council have put together a working group to look at the suggestion and bring forward their findings to a future NC meeting.

A Community Warden could for example:

Manage the Speed Indicator Device by making sure it was regularly placed on the available brackets, thus helping to educate drivers to stay within the speed limit

Coordinate Community Road Watch events as a further form of driver education and perhaps visit schools / community groups to spread the message to the wider community.

Act as liaison with the PCC Dog Warden to help identify key areas for patrol and help instigate action against those who continue to flout the law by not removing their dog's faeces.

Act as a litter picker in key areas making him/her visible to the community for whom he/she works and represents.

He/she could be a local 'on site' advisor who could direct residents to report incidents in the proper way to the appropriate authorities so that records are maintained and actions taken as appropriate and in a speedy manner.

Act as a liaison with the police on issues which are their responsibility and help ensure that incidents are reported and logged and action taken.

A Community Warden would require training in a number of roles, be a key liaison between residents and the appropriate authorities and above all be a street presence to help maintain the well-being of the area.

This idea is still at the investigation stage so please let us know what you think

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Another Planning Application For Ingol Golf Course

06/2017/0002

Hybrid planning application for the redevelopment of land for areas of public open space (full application); for a new first team training facility for Preston North End Football Club and residential development of up to 450 dwellings (outline application access applied for).

Full details can be seen on the Preston City Council web site

Take a look at what is proposed and have your say

Upcoming Meeting

Neighbourhood Council Meeting, 7pm at St. Margaret's Church

Wednesday 1st March 2017