

**Hyndburn Community Network  
Extraordinary General Meeting  
Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Resolution 1: Special Resolution - *To close Hyndburn Community Network Ltd and to instruct the Directors/Trustees of Hyndburn Community Network Ltd to proceed with closing the charity/company in an orderly and proper fashion.***

The purpose of the Extraordinary General Meeting is to obtain permission from the member organisations of the Network to close Hyndburn Community Network ***when necessary*** and for the members to instruct the Director's/Trustees of Hyndburn Community Network Ltd to proceed with ***closing the charity/company in an orderly and proper fashion and at an appropriate time.***

We are taking this step now because the Network is solvent, and as a limited company, we can make use of the 'Voluntary Striking Off and Dissolution' procedure under section 10003 of the Companies Act 2006'. To do this the Network must pass a 'special resolution' in a general meeting (EGM) of its members to wind up as solvent.

If the decision is taken in January 2012 the Directors can then close the Network in an orderly and proper fashion before funds run out. It is anticipated that this will be ***at the end of March 2012*** but may be slightly earlier as funds allow. If the situation changes the decision to close can be reversed at any time.

As part of the government's drive to reduce the gap between England's poorest communities and the country as a whole, the 'National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal', published in 2001, sought to influence change at a local level. In 2002 the UK community empowerment network initiative was seen as a very important part of the neighbourhood renewal programme and local regeneration.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund provided a grant to 88 of the most deprived local authority areas including Hyndburn. This was to fund the work of local strategic partnerships (LSPs) to improve services and target resources more effectively. The Network was funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. In these difficult financial times it is amazing that England has no regeneration programme - the first time since Harold Wilson invented the Urban Programme in 1969.

The Network was set up in 2002 as a '*community empowerment network*' as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. This was to enable the voluntary, community and faith sector to be a partner in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and to have a strong voice and meaningful representation on the LSP. Partnership working was seen as key to setting and agreeing local priorities and shared responsibility for achieving the targets.

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The LSP was a forum for representatives of all the local stakeholders (the private, public and third sector) in Hyndburn to come together to discuss, plan and coordinate work. To develop its role in partnership working the Network became a company limited by guarantee in 2006 and a registered charity in 2009.

In 2010 the Local Strategic Partnership in Hyndburn ceased to meet as the coalition government places less emphasis than the previous government on formalised local partnership arrangements.

This has meant that the Network's role in community empowerment, engagement and development to support representation on the LSP, its sub groups or thematic partnerships has now ended.

In March 2011 as a result of their funding cuts Hyndburn Borough Council stopped core funding for the community engagement role of the Network and this has meant that we are no longer able to support the various Forums representing the diverse communities of Hyndburn that have been associated with the Network since 2002.

From 2007-2011 the Network has diversified into frontline delivery work with seldom heard (hard-to-reach) groups including Gypsy Roma Irish Travellers, migrant workers, lone parents, the long-term unemployed and on the preventing violent extremism agenda. Unfortunately, due to funding cuts, almost all of the funding for this frontline work ended in March 2011 although we continue to work on Prevent through funding and support from Lancashire Constabulary.

Whilst the Network has endeavoured to concentrate on frontline work especially with the long-term unemployed through the Community Evolved Learning project in partnership with CanWe Solutions CIC we have, as yet, been unsuccessful in securing future long-term funding. If the position does not change the Directors will have no choice other than to close the Network in the foreseeable future and certainly by the end of this financial year.



Peter Shaw  
Chair  
Hyndburn Community Network Ltd.