

## How to Get Involved

Quick Guide 2e

### Have Your Say!

Influencing the decisions and services which affect our lives might be easier than you think. Whether you want to inform yourself about how the Council is performing, debate the issues affecting your local area, have control over local decisions and services or are just interested in a particular issue, there are ways to have your say.

### Hyndburn Community Network

**Want to know what's going on in your community?** The Network runs a number of thematic forums including Hyndburn Disabled Forum, Hyndburn Over 50s Forum, Hyndburn Inter Faith Forum and Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum. By joining one of these local Forums you will be kept up to date on current issues and initiatives and have a chance to contribute to discussions and debates.

These forums have representatives on the Local Strategic Partnership Assembly Board and its sub groups which cover community safety, health and social issues, economy, enterprise, training, unemployment children and young people, volunteering, climate change, managing local green spaces and many other topics.

The quality of decision-making is improved because of the involvement of local people who are having a greater say and making a difference to their communities because of their involvement through Hyndburn Community Network. **For more information, visit the Network's website or contact us on 232426.**

### Consultations

Current consultations being undertaken at national, regional, Lancashire and local level are listed on the Network's website. Lancashire County Council and Hyndburn Borough Council also have pages which list current consultations. You can also find the results of consultations in the form of reports with comments about what you said.

### Area Councils

With nine Area Councils across the Borough, there's always something relevant to your area being debated. Councils meet three times a year, with the "open forum" offering a perfect opportunity to let the Area Council and the council know what is important to you. Area Councils provide opportunities for discussing burning issues with local councillors, the police and others. You will also find out about the local community groups and resident organisations that are doing such a good job in your area and are always looking for new members to get involved in their activities and help you to become a more active citizen.

For meeting venues, dates and times – or to join the Mailing List and receive agendas for your area - contact Kellie Dent on 380121 or email [areacouncils@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:areacouncils@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

### Feedback Panel

Why not join the 2000 local residents who have registered to receive Feedback questionnaires since 1999? Members receive four surveys a year, covering everything from parks to housing, and crime to shopping facilities. Newsletters keep you up to date with what's happening about your views, and you even have a chance to win regular cash rewards.

To register for online or postal surveys, please contact Kelly Down on 380113, text your name and address to 07816 880000, or email [consultation@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

[www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk](http://www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk)

**Hyndburn Community Network**

HV&CRC (Old St James School), Cannon Street, Accrington BB5 2ER

**Tel:** 01254 232426 **Email:** [info@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk)

## Register to Vote!

The next Hyndburn Council elections are due to be held in 2010, but it's vital to keep your details up to date.

You will shortly be sent an Electoral Registration Form. Return this to us if there are any changes – if there are no changes, you can also let us know online or by phone. Details of how to do this are included on the form.

If any of your details change at any other time, please fill in the form at [tinyurl.com/4foyh7](http://tinyurl.com/4foyh7) - if you have any other questions, please contact [elections@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

## Opportunities to Volunteer

If you're interested in local opportunities for volunteering, enter your postcode on the Do-It! website [http://www.do-it.org.uk/](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and see what opportunities are open to you in Hyndburn and the surrounding area.

Contact Dorothy at H&RV CVS on 879966 to find out more about volunteering

## Neighbourhood Management

If you live in Church, Accrington or Clayton then you benefit from Neighbourhood Management, and can work with partners to solve local issues. To learn more, contact Robert Ruston on 380609 or email [neighbourhoodmanagement@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodmanagement@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

To find out what's going on in your area, contact your local office:

*Peel & Barnfield* – 62 Nuttall Street. Tel: 237221

*Church, Central & Milnshaw* – 18 India Street. Tel: 879356

*Scaitcliffe & Spring Hill* – Scaitcliffe Community Centre. Tel: 386285.

*Clayton* – Civic Hall Basement, Arthur Street. Tel: 875691

## Local Neighbourhoods/Townships

If you do not have Neighbourhood Management in your area you may have a Parish Council, Town Centre Regeneration Board or other organisation.

To find out what is available in your area telephone 380121 or email [areacouncils@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:areacouncils@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

## Police Meetings

There are two main ways to have your say about Policing.

**PAC meetings** are held 3 times a year, and allow you to raise questions about policing in Hyndburn. For information on meeting dates and times, contact 01772 531209 or visit [tinyurl.com/68d234](http://tinyurl.com/68d234)

**PACT meetings** are held monthly in your local area and are held with the Beat Manager responsible for your local area. For more information contact 01254 353103 or enter your postcode on the Police website: <http://www.lancashire.police.uk/>

## Overview & Scrutiny

The Council's internal "watchdog", the Overview and Scrutiny Committee keeps a close eye on the Council's performance and policies, as well as examining decisions made by the Cabinet.

Is there anything you'd like them to investigate?

Whilst they don't look into individual cases, if you have a topic or an issue relating to quality of life in the Borough which you think should be considered, please contact Paul Preston on 380129 or email [scrutiny@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

## Council Performance

If you want up-to-date information on how the Council is performing, visit [tinyurl.com/4nijvm](http://tinyurl.com/4nijvm)

## Freedom of Information

From 2005, you have been able to request information from the Council under the Freedom of Information legislation. As long as we hold the information, and it is not covered by any of the Act's exemptions, we will provide you with it.

To make a request for information, contact the Council on 388111 or email [foi@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@hyndburnbc.gov.uk)

## Council Meetings

It's now easier than ever to find out about the decisions your Councillors are taking.

The Council's website now has a list of all the agendas for Council and Cabinet meetings, along with other agendas and reports from Area Councils and Committee meetings.

This information can be found at <http://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/meetings>

## Contact Your Councillor

Information about Hyndburn Borough Council councillors, including contact details is available at [tinyurl.com/6qa4nd](http://tinyurl.com/6qa4nd)

Email: [memberservices@hyndburnbc.gov.uk](mailto:memberservices@hyndburnbc.gov.uk) or Telephone: 01254 380116

## Contact Your County Councillor

This site identifies who your Lancashire County Council Councillor is and outlines their responsibilities and contact details <http://tinyurl.com/686tp8>

## Life in Lancashire

Here you can give your opinions to Lancashire County Council on many varied topics. [tinyurl.com/6p5wh7](http://tinyurl.com/6p5wh7)