
Your Community ... Your Voice 'It's What We're all About'

The Network helps you to have your say about important issues. We are promoting three issues at the moment; you can have your say on any of these by contacting Michelle at the Network or downloading the documents from our website

www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk

Hyndburn Parks User Survey & Hyndburn Parks Activities Survey (REAP)

The Council is appealing to local residents and community groups to support an exciting £1½ million lottery bid, which, if successful, will mean- among other things- Hyndburn's 11 parks playing host to lots of free new activities and events,

Lancashire Libraries and Information Service Consultation

Lancashire Libraries are conducting a survey about the library and information services provided to the public.

Disability Equality Scheme in Hyndburn

From December 2006 the Council will have a duty to promote disability equality. The Council needs a Disability Equality Scheme with an action plan showing how this will happen. A draft scheme has been drawn up, but the Council needs your help to make sure they have considered issues which are important to you. This survey gives you the opportunity to comment upon the proposed scheme.

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Hyndburn V&C Resource Centre Cannon Street



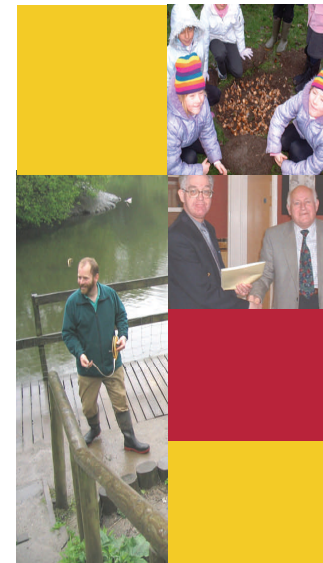
Hyndburn community network

Your Community...Your Voice

October 2006

Your Community ... Your Voice

*Bringing together
community, voluntary
and faith sector
groups in Hyndburn*



NETWORK AGM

Hyndburn Community Network's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 2 November 2006 at 6pm at Hyndburn V&C Resource Centre, Cannon Street, Accrington.

The Network recently invited nominations to the board from its membership and was successful in recruiting board members, some of whom have been with us in the past plus some welcome new faces. The members will be able to appoint those nominated at the AGM.

In addition to the formal business, this event will be the ideal opportunity to meet staff, board members and other community members over an informal buffet. If you have not received an invitation to the AGM and your community group wish to attend, you can join the Network, by contacting Michelle, Barbara or Helen on 232426.

visit our website

www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk

LSP Update—Network Chairman appointed as Acting Chair of the LSP

Each year the LSP undergoes a performance review which is undertaken by Government Office North West. This year the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) resolved to undertake an additional review of the partnership which was prompted by views from many people within the LSP that it can be more effective than the level at which it is currently operating and can make a greater difference to the lives of local people. A team made up of staff from Government Office North West, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Burnley Borough Council were asked to review the partnership and make recommendations as to how the effectiveness of the partnership could be improved. The LSP was looking for a broad range of outcomes from this review some of which were:

- An effective LSP structure and more strategic and simplified sub-structure
- An appropriate membership for the partnership and sub-groups
- Ensure community involvement
- More effective relationships with external partners

A report has been written and its recommendations are being addressed by a Task and Finish Group which is being led by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor. This group is busy formulating the improvement plan for consideration by the LSP.

At its meeting held in July the LSP agreed to appoint a temporary Chairman and Vice-Chairman until such time that new members have been appointed following the review. Peter Shaw, the current Chairman of the Community Network was appointed as Acting Chairman and Munsif Dad, currently Chairman of the BME forum was appointed as Acting Vice-Chairman.

For further information contact Helen on 232426.

See website for the latest on your LSP
www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk

Over 50's Forum

The Forum is seeking nominations for Chair and Vice Chair; to be returned by 31 October with a meeting on 6 November to vote and appoint these officers. There will be a further meeting before Christmas – the date to be arranged. Watch out in the local press and our website for this. If you are interested contact Michelle.

The Over 50s Forum has prioritised 'Housing for the Future for the Over 50s'.

Representatives from the Forum have been very busy increasing awareness of Hyndburn by attending the 'Developing Older Peoples forums in Lancashire'.

Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Needs and Strategy Co-ordinator, Hyndburn Borough Council, has the responsibility for producing the Housing for Older People strategy. Fiona spent three hours, at one of our meetings, gathering significant information for the basis of the Strategy. Fiona said, 'Please express my thanks to the group for all the comments and input they made on the day.'

Comments raised about the four main priority areas are:

1. Maintenance / repair of own home and funding to assist
2. Direct transport to hospital
3. Access to information (signposting) and communication
4. Specialist accommodation – self contained bungalows

Other areas mentioned: Retirement villages; safety issues particularly in winter; services to support people in their own homes; community/good neighbours/company; transport; poor condition of properties; stairlifts and the difficulties in getting adaptations; inability to afford repairs to homes, asset rich/cash poor; current housing is too costly to heat; equity release to carry out repairs; difficulty in getting used to new technology; targeting information to older people; mobility problems; alternatives to own home required as population ages; little new build for older people, that is, bungalows.

Update on Hyndburn's Summer Events

Now that the nights are drawing in, it's time to look back at the summer events. This year saw a mix of sun throughout July and rain throughout August. Regardless of weather, there are people throughout Hyndburn who organise summer events, (not forgetting Great Harwood's Winter Warmer), working tirelessly to provide a day of fun for the family and community.

The Network attended these events, both to help out on the day or to hold workshops, where members of the community had wonderful days out and left with smiles on their faces.

Thankyou to all the organisers of this years' summer events, Roar in the Gore; The Bash Bash; Hyndburn Mela; Rishton Festival; Lark in the Park and a thankyou in advance for **Great Harwood's Winter Warmer which takes place on 1 December – put it in your diary!**

*The Network will be holding a **Hyndburn Festival Steering Group** meeting on **Tuesday 31 October at 6pm at Accrington Town Hall**. This group is intended for those people who organise any event in Hyndburn. If you do not receive a direct invitation by email or post, and wish to attend, please contact Michelle at the Network on 232426.*

Free Room Use – Network's Members Benefit

The Network's office is in the Hyndburn Voluntary and Community Resource Centre, Cannon Street, Accrington. In addition to our office we also sponsor the Network Room within the Centre. The Network Room holds 18 people for a meeting in board room style and about 25 people theatre style. Available for use is a loop system, laptop, projector and screen, comfortable meeting chairs, and a kitchen.

If your community group needs to use a room for a meeting, the Networks Room is available FREE OF CHARGE. Telephone Michelle on 232426.

If your community group, voluntary or faith group is not a member please contact Michelle or Barbara in 232426 or log on to our website

www.hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk and join online. There is no joining fee or subscription.

Lighter and Safer Streets in Hyndburn

Hyndburn streets will soon be lighter and feel safer after The Hyndburn Community Safety Partnership recently secured over £48,000 extra cash to improve street lighting.

It's a fact that people feel safer where there are plenty of street lights, and more lights will be installed in some streets in Rishton and Gt Harwood later this year.

In its Community Safety Strategy 2005/2008, the Community Safety Partnership agreed to reduce crime across the Borough by 15% by March 2008. This target includes its main crime priorities of violent crime, criminal damage, domestic burglary and vehicle crime. The Partnership is also committed to reducing the communities main concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour, such as dog fouling, litter, fly-tipping, neighbour noise and youth issues. It hopes that improved, and additional, street lighting will make our streets safer, reduce the fear of crime and act as a deterrent to commit crime and anti-social behaviour. The Partnership's aim is to make Hyndburn a safer place to live, work and visit.

Mick Frankland, the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership said *"This a major boost for the communities of Hyndburn and credit to those who have submitted the funding bid. Good quality street lighting is recognised as an excellent way of improving personal well-being and feelings of safety when out and about, as well as deterring would be criminals. ... the Community Safety Partnership is concentrating on reducing criminal damage, violent crime and anti-social behaviour, so good quality street lighting is one of the crime reduction tools that we are using to help us and our communities to achieve this aim"*.

Cllr Tony Dobson, Deputy Leader of the Council (Regeneration) added *"This is great news, Hyndburn people want to feel safer on out streets and improved street lighting is a major part of making that happen"*

Want to know more about the Community Safety Partnership?
www.saferlancashire.co.uk/local_areas/hyndburn/safety/

Free Healthy Travel Link Opens in Hyndburn

A new traffic-free route right through the middle of Hyndburn and a unique national health project was formally opened by the Mayor of Hyndburn Borough Council, Cllr Dr Rahman, on Friday 22 September, when he joined other cyclists for a ride along a section of it to a presentation ceremony at Scaitcliffe Causeway.

The Hyndburn Greenway is a healthy link joining Baxenden, Accrington centre, Church, Rishton and Great Harwood. It also joins with other off-road routes that run into Blackburn, Clayton-le-Moors and beyond. It is the latest section of the National Cycle Network route 6 from London to Keswick to be completed.

And you can join the fun – why not try a sociable lunch-time cycle ride based on a section of the Greenway? Every Tuesday until December there is a programme of free short cycle rides including free bike hire and training. They're run by a partnership of Cycling Projects, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT and the national sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

Don't worry if you haven't got a bicycle - as Cycling Projects can supply one for you. Equipment and refreshments will also be provided.

Take a look at the programme of rides, (contact Ian Tierney) and if you'd like to book a place please email ian.tierney@cyclinq.org.uk or telephone 01254 356873.

Lancashire Local—Highways Schemes

Lancashire Local would like to hear from residents about how an additional amount of £8000 of funding could be best spent on highways related problems in the borough.

Suggestions so far include drop kerbs/mobility crossings, a new bus shelter in Oswaldtwistle, an illuminated sign in Altham and tree pruning across the borough.

Other ideas could include additional bollards to protect footways, safety fencing, additional footway resurfacing/slurry sealing, upgrading of light stock, provision of lighting, painting and maintaining fencing, improvements to verges, kerbing verges or tree pits.

This money can also be used as a contribution to other schemes or to attract match funding from elsewhere.

If your community group has a suggestion on how and where this money could be spent please contact your local county councillor.

Health Centres in Accrington

There are two new Health Centres (LIFT) being built in Accrington, on Blackburn Road and Paradise Street. A group has been set up to be involved in the development of these centres and to feed views of residents, patient and the public to the developers. This Stakeholders group would like to seek the views from as many people, groups and organisations as possible.

What do you want from the new health centre and why?

What are the particular needs of your local community and why?

What are the needs of your group and why?

Examples of the type of things you might want are a loop system, colours to suite the visually impaired, signage, public telephones and disabled parking.

If you would like to join the Stakeholders group please contact Susan Wilson on 01254 300469

Docs, Cops and other professionals join together to promote safer drinking

Over 14 different agencies, authorities and groups have joined forces to promote safer drinking to residents and visitors to Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

The message is simple: 'alternate'. However the campaigns distinctive logo is designed in a modern distinctive text-style language: 'altn8'. The altn8 campaign is designed to promote a safer way of drinking. As Nicola Murphy, Campaign Co-ordinator said: "You can drink, but to avoid all the problems that heavy alcohol drinking leads to, we are saying, alternate your alcoholic drink with a soft drink, or alternate the nights you drink with nights when you don't drink, and alternate your lifestyle: you don't have to drink all the time". The campaign is running from 29 September until the 30 November.

Link from our Website

Does your organisation have a website you would like to publicise?

Ever used a really useful site?

Have you seen our new webpage on funding with lots of links?

TELL US, a link from our website will mean more people can access useful and enlightening information.

Email or phone your website address to Michelle on 232426
michelle@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk

Members only—Free Giveaway

Get your free Building Safer Communities Resource Pack by contacting Barbara on 232426 or email barbara@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk

Neighbourhood Renewal Community Voice

The NRCV has held two events to find out the concerns of the community who live in the five priority wards of Barnfield, Central, Church, Peel and Spring Hill. The two events were **Community Safety and Housing & Environment**.

Following the **Community Safety** event an Action Plan was developed to address the main issues which covered antisocial behaviour, criminal damage, young people's awareness of domestic violence, reducing crime and building confidence in the criminal justice system whilst increasing voluntary and community engagement and reducing alcohol related crime. It is time to evaluate how much has changed.

There have been many changes since the **Housing & Environment** event was held. These changes include key pieces of legislation included in the Housing Act 2004, landlord accreditation, property licences and selective licences, housing stock transfer and the government's drive to bring long-term empty homes back into use as well as increasing the health and safety of dwellings. The Government has also introduced the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which covers nuisance and abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti and fly-posting, noise, waste, dog fouling and other issues.

NRCV believe this is a good time for the resident associations and community groups in the five wards to come together to address these issues. and to speak with one voice regarding the concerns of local communities. Many of the major issues are the same in each ward and through NRCV you can tackle the problems together because united communities make things happen!

If your organisation represents residents in these wards, you can nominate a representative from your organisation to represent you on NRCV. If you are interested, contact Barbara at the Network on 232426.

Volunteer Weaners Wanted

The PCT is looking for ladies who are interested in health and babies to be part of a weaning project. You would be delivering nutritional support and information to mums at baby clinics in Hyndburn. All volunteers will receive training and support. There is also an incentive scheme which rewards volunteers with vouchers for the session they do.

A great opportunity for some training and experience which would enhance any CV. Contact Zarqa Riaz, PCT, telephone 01254 356800.

Partner Focus—News from the Council—Hyndburn is on the up

You'll have seen lately how Hyndburn is changing, and how the Council and its partners are working to make Hyndburn a great place to live, work and visit.

We're driving forward ambitious plans to regenerate the borough, and we've already seen some fantastic results. In 2005-6 house prices in the area rose by 17% - making Hyndburn one of the top six places to invest in Britain, it's even been featured by Phil and Kirsty in Location Location Location as a great place to invest! This is great news for us all, and shows the success of the action we've been taking to refurbish and demolish low demand properties in the borough. We've also just heard that in the first three months of 2006-7 prices have risen by a further 15% again outstripping national trends.

Working with our partners in the Primary Care Trust, we've also secured sites for **two new health facilities** in the borough. As a result building on the £15 million projects is underway, and we should see the welcome addition of these facilities up and running in the near future.

Have you had a chance to check out the brand new cycle path across Scaitcliffe Lodge yet? It's now a picturesque setting for a gentle stroll or a vigorous bike ride, and work is also well underway on a stunning development of luxury apartments next to the lodge, an exciting project which will add to the ongoing revitalisation of the town centre.

There's also good news for Accrington town centre. People have been telling us they like the new look Broadway and it's definitely given the town a real boost. Over the past year over **40 new shops were attracted to the area**, and we're looking forward to further expansion as local businesses go from strength to strength. National companies are also seeing Hyndburn's potential and Tesco Metro are set to open a new facility on one of the main gateways to the town on Abbey Street in the Autumn. This will complement the opening of a new 'suburb' café and 'Officers Club' clothing outlet.

Over the past year the Borough has also enjoyed some remarkable successes in the field of community safety. Overall, crime in the area reduced by 7% in 2005-6, with a huge 49% reduction in violent crime at licensed