Town Centre Ward Committee

Public Meeting

Agenda

Date: 24th July 2007
Time: 7.00 p.m.
Venue: Holy Trinity Church

Membership:

Councillors: Beirne, Crowther, Hennessy,
Co-opted Members: Pam Buck, Helena Housing
Inspector Julie Ellison, Merseyside Police
Alan Chick, Community Empowerment Network
Phil Pawley, Tenants and Residents Association
Bette Yates, Tenants and Residents Association
Jimmy Devlin, Tenants and Residents Association
Lynn Arnold, Tenants and Residents Association
Kath Boullen, St. Helens Chamber
Nicola Croft, Arena Housing
Marjorie Conroy, Mission in the Economy

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Declaration of Interests from Members
4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
   a) May Issues
   b) Environmental Project Fund – Update to be tabled
5. Public Question Time
6. Local Issues
   a) Lowe House LIFT Project
   b) Youth Provision
   c) Town Centre Update
7. Update on Environmental Protection Planned Schemes
8. Environmental Fund New Proposals
9. Community Safety Update
10. Date of the Next Meeting – 4th September 2007
Mr Farrell welcomed members of the Ward Committee and residents to the meeting.

- **The Committee resolved that Cllr Crowther be appointed as Chair.**

Cllr Crowther took the Chair.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   
   Apologies had been received from Lynn Arnold, Kath Boullen, Marjorie Conroy, Phil Pawley.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
   
   - Resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

3. **Declarations of Interest from Members**
   
   No declarations were made at the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**
   
   a) **March Issues**
      
      The Committee discussed the possibility of holding future meetings at alternative venues across the ward commencing at 6.00p.m.
      
      - Resolved that Mr Farrell pursue the request on behalf of the Committee.

   b) **Environmental Project Fund - Update**
In relation to Environmental Fund, the Committee requested that Mr Farrell establish if scheme TOC-8, traffic calming system, is covered in other schedules of work.

- **Resolved that Mr Farrell establish if TOC-8 is covered in other work schedules.**

The Committee reviewed the schemes included in the Environmental Fund Progress report.

- **Resolved that schemes Toc-2, TOC-5, TOC-6, TOC-7, TOC-10, TOC-13 be deleted from the schedule.**

5. **Public Question Time**  
There were no tabled questions from members of the public.

6. **Local Issues**  
The item relating to the update on the LIFT was deferred until the next meeting.

7. **Update of Environmental Protection Planned Schemes**  
Mr Farrell outlined the Environmental Schemes that were taking place in the Town Centre Ward.

- **Resolved that the report be noted.**

8. **Environmental Fund New Proposals**  
A proposal was submitted by Mrs D Fairhurst on behalf of a number of residents in Ward Street. The request asked that the fund be used to create a flowerbed at the top of Ward Street.

- **Resolved that provision of a flowerbed be progressed.**

Pam Buck requested the Committee to consider the erection of lights at St Thomas Church to combat antisocial behaviour, the costs is estimated at £5000.

- **Resolved that the request be put on hold at present.**

Jimmy Devlin requested the Committee to consider clearing the ex-railway line at Borough Road which is unsightly.

- **Resolved that Mr Farrell establish the ownership of the land prior to any decision.**

Cllr Beirne asked if the fund could be used to support the creation of a newspaper/community spreadsheet.

- **Resolved that Cllr Crowther raise the matter of publicity with the Council Leader.**

The Committee considered the provision of Christmas Trees for 2007.
• Resolved that members of the Committee were asked to forward suggestions for the location of Christmas Trees to Mrs Lesley Barry.

9. Community Safety Update  
Mr Farrell presented the Town Centre Community Safety report which provided the Committee with statistical information and ward initiatives.

• Resolved that the content of the report was noted.

10. St. Helens Youth Provision for 2007/2008 - Update  
Mr Farrell presented the report on St. Helens Youth provision 2007/2008. This report included the summer programme, junior youth clubs, expansion of youth provision and the youth volunteering programme.

• Resolved that the content of the report was noted and Mr Farrell was asked to invite a representative from the Youth Service to the next meeting.

11. Recycle for St Helens.  
Mr Farrell presented the report and explained the marketing campaign taking place.

• Resolved that the content of the report was noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting  
The next meeting will take place on the 24 July 2007.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Works to be undertaken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>Highway Maintenance Schemes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thornham Avenue Estate</td>
<td>Footway Slurry Sealing</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooper St/Halefield St area</td>
<td>Footway Slurry Sealing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A58 Prescot Rd/Boundary Road junction</td>
<td>Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canal St/Burtonhead Road (parts)</td>
<td>Micro Asphalt/Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sutton Road (Jackson St – Peasley Cross Lane - parts)</td>
<td>Footway Reconstruction</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kinmel Street</td>
<td>Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waine Street (part)</td>
<td>Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farnworth Street (1 side – opposite 9-31)</td>
<td>Footway Reconstruction</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Highway Schemes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
<td>Works to be undertaken</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Town Centre Focal Point</td>
<td>This project is a comprehensive programme of public realm works within St Helens Town Centre to create a significantly improved and upgraded environment. The project includes the removal of poor quality environmental features and clearance of clutter to create a strong geometric, clean, linear and modern streetscape. Delivering this step change will require quality workmanship and detailing throughout the supply chain. The main elements of this will be:-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Centre (Cont’d)</td>
<td>Other Highway Schemes (Cont’d.) Town Centre Focal Point (Cont’d)</td>
<td>• A new suite of modern street furniture and pedestrian signing; • Feature artwork at ‘gateway points’ • Removal of unnecessary clutter - planter boxes etc; • New surfaces in natural stone and granite; • Feature retaining walls and steps in natural stone; • New high-level street lighting, with feature lighting to buildings and at street level; • Selected removal of under-performing trees where required and replacement with more suitable species; • Reallocation of vehicle access space to allow the creation of increased amenity spaces; • Cladding and upgrading of service ramps and buildings; • Automatic entry point traffic control systems with telematics. This is a three phased scheme within the core town centre focusing on Church Square, Church Street, Market Street, Barrow Street, Claughton Street and Hardshaw Street.</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Pride &amp; Community Spaces</td>
<td>Nanny Goat Park</td>
<td>Park Improvements including Lighting, Landscaping including Tree, Shrub, and Wildflower Areas, New Park Furniture including Gating, Seats, Litter Bins, Dog Waste Bins, Site Signage and Park Information Board.</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Street Allotments</td>
<td>Provision of Additional Fenceline and Gates</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Street Allotments</td>
<td>Site Signage and Information Point</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
<td>Works to be undertaken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>Highway Maintenance Schemes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A571 College Street (Pilkington entrance – Bridge)</td>
<td>Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hall Street (Shaw Street – Standish Street)</td>
<td>Carriageway Resurfacing</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lord Street (Link paths)</td>
<td>Footway Reconstruction</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridges Schemes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salisbury Street Bridge</td>
<td>Proposed lowering of Carriageway</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Footway Sealing**

When a footway is to be sealed, any defective areas will be excavated and patched with bituminous material. A bituminous slurry seal, approximately 6mm thick will then be spread over the surface of the footway.

**Footway Reconstruction Scheme**

In a footway reconstruction scheme existing kerbs will be taken out if defective and replaced with new. The surface of the old footway will be broken out and regulated with stone sub-base. Bitmac base course and wearing course will then be laid.

Footway reconstruction is undertaken when the condition of the footway has deteriorated to such an extent that surface dressing or slurry seal would prove ineffective. A reconstructed footway should not require attention for a further 15 years.

**Carriageway Sealing**

When a carriageway is to be sealed, any defective areas will be excavated and patched with bituminous material. A bituminous slurry seal, approximately 6mm thick will then be spread over the surface of the carriageway.

**Micro Asphalt**

This is similar to carriageway sealing with a larger aggregate and is used as an intermediate process when the road condition is too poor to use slurry seal but not bad enough to warrant resurfacing.
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TACKLING CRIME AND DISORDER IN ST.HELENS – WARD UPDATE TOWN CENTRE

The success in crime and disorder reduction experienced during 2006/07 has been continued into the new year. British Crime Survey Comparator crimes across the Borough fell during the quarter by 815 offences when compared to the same period last year. All crime fell by 818 offences.

In the individual crime types, theft of a motor vehicle fell by 34.17%, theft from a motor vehicle fell by 25.92%, domestic burglary fell by 18.13% and criminal damage by 27.75%. Drug offences did however show an increase of 33.47% but this reflects the activity being undertaken to tackle drug misuse utilising, amongst other things, information and intelligence gathered from the local community.

Anti-social behaviour in the Borough also showed big reductions during the quarter that is, in part, a reflection of the on-going work undertaken by a range of agencies to tackle this important local priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April - June 2006/07</th>
<th>April - June 2007/08</th>
<th>+/- %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Borough Wide Profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes</td>
<td>3065</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>26.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recorded Crime</td>
<td>4938</td>
<td>4120</td>
<td>16.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ward Profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>31.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recorded Crime</td>
<td>1312</td>
<td>1049</td>
<td>20.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of a Vehicle</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a Vehicle</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>+33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a Person</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage and Arson</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>39.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offences</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anti-Social Behaviour calls to the Police</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowdy Behaviour</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Vehicles</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>57.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Drinking</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Misuse</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Merseyside Police** - Your Neighbourhood Inspector is Julie Ellison and your Neighbourhood Sergeant is Mike Kenny
Ward Initiatives

Tackling Inconsiderate Parking

Following residents’ concerns regarding illegal parking in the Town Centre, Community Support Officers from the Town Centre Neighbourhood carried out a targeted operation last month. Residents’ parking bays were being used by non-permit holders in and around Hardshaw Street and Vincent Street in the Town Centre. As a result, 35 Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices (£30 fines) were issued to drivers parking in the allocated bays without the appropriate permit. Residents Parking Schemes are in place for a reason and Police in the area will continue to monitor the situation.

Calling time on drunk and disorderly behaviour

As part of the on-going campaign in St Helens to take a STAND against disorder and anti-social behaviour, a further five life-time bans have been issued at the St Helens Pub Watch Committee last month.

Under the initiative, anyone who is violent towards bar staff, arrested and charged with serious assault or disorder, damages property or use pub premises to supply drugs will receive an interim ban from licensed premises in the areas covered by the three schemes (Town Centre, Newton and Thatto Heath). The St Helens Pubwatch committee will then review the case to determine the length of the banning order.

If the banning orders are breached, Merseyside Police and St Helens Pubwatch Committee will consider an application to court for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order.

Borough-Wide Initiatives

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Merseyside Police has teamed up with St Helens Council to introduce an innovative new marketing campaign that addresses anti-social behaviour across the borough.

This latest campaign links in with the Government’s Respect drive, which builds on what has already been achieved in combating anti-social behaviour and goes broader, further and deeper to tackle the causes of anti-social behaviour and prevent the next generation becoming involved.

Merseyside Police, St Helens Council and other crime reduction partners have been working together with local communities to take positive action against people’s anti-social behaviour. A number of tactics have been used to tackle the issue including:-

- 29 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders currently in place for a variety of offences including drug activity, theft from shop and causing alarm, harassment and distress within communities.
• 136 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued for a variety of offences including being drunk and disorderly, prohibited from entering specified areas within the borough due to behaving in an anti-social manner.
• 9 Section 30 Designated Areas currently operational across the borough (2 in Parr, 2 in Haresfinch, 2 in Rainhill, 2 in Clock Face and one in Haydock) enabling a Police Constable to move on groups of two or more in a designated area
• 2942 alcohol confiscations carried out over the last 12 months
• 966 Nuisance/abandoned vehicles removed from our streets over the last 12 months

Off Road Bike Amnesty

Mini motos, go-peds and other similar motorised transport are subject to restrictions. They can be used on private property, with the owner’s permission, but if they are to be used in public places, the same restrictions apply as to a motorbike:

• Rider needs to be over 16 years of age and be wearing an approved helmet and have at least a provisional driving licence
• The rider will have undertaken Compulsory Basic Training
• The vehicle will have valid road tax and insurance and have an MOT if it is over 3 years old
• The vehicle also needs to have working lights, number plate and enough tread on the tyres

After the amnesty, vehicles seized by Merseyside Police will not be returned to the owner without the correct vehicle documentation. Members of the public wishing to hand over their bike should take it to the Council Depot at Hardshaw Brook. The depot will be open Monday to Friday 8.00am – 4.00pm and on Saturday 8.00am – 12.00 noon. For more information contact St Helens Council on 01744 456789.

Alcohol Designatory Area

In response to concerns from the public about alcohol abuse in the Town, St Helens Council consulted with the borough’s communities between November and January 2007 with regards to introducing a borough-wide alcohol ban. As a result, the Alcohol Designatory Order came into effect on 1 July 2007 and will be used to help tackle this problem.

The Order gives the Council the right to agree areas where people cannot drink alcohol if asked by the Police not to do so (e.g. in a street, in parks or open spaces). Police will be able to stop people drinking alcohol (and confiscate and dispose of any other alcohol they are carrying) and people could face a fine or arrest for refusing to do so.
The Order only includes areas where there has been a problem with anti-social behaviour caused by public drinking. All 16 Wards are covered, however, some rural areas that haven't had these problems are not included in the Order. A map of the Designatory Order is available at the Council's Contact Centre or Safer Communities Team.

Extending the Designatory Order beyond the Town Centre will help Police and partners tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. In addition, it will address the problems identified by residents of people drinking in the streets, residential parks and open spaces.

Useful Contacts

0151 709 6010 – NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER
(General enquiries, speak to Neighbourhood Officers)

999 – EMERGENCY

0800 555 111 – CRIMESTOPPERS
(Provide information about crime in your area anonymously)

Further information can be found by logging on to the Police website – www.merseyside.police.uk

St Helens Council
Tel: 01744 456789
Email: contactcentre@sthelens.gov.uk