

East Rural Network

Minutes of a meeting of the East Rural Network held on Tuesday 15th September 2009 at 8 p.m. in the Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank

Present

*Cllr. J. Slater - Chair

*Mr. M. Cooper – Eccleshill Parish Council

*Mrs. D. Hornby – Vice-Chair

*Mrs. D. Dyer – Secretary

*Mrs. T. McCluskey – Treasurer

**Management Group*

In attendance

Mr. T. Birch, Neighbourhood Manager – Darwen & Rural

Ms G. Kinloch, Environment Strategy & Project Manager

Mrs. M. Jones, Public Rights of Way Officer

Apologies Mr. B. Clarke Mr. M. Skipper Rev T. Dyer Mr. G. Cooper Mrs. B. Bickerton

Action

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Tim Birch, Neighbourhood Manager for Darwen & Rural was introduced. He will be providing support for the Network in future.

2.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2009 were accepted as a correct record.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 **School Footpath:** Work has not been undertaken, as expected, over the summer holidays.

3.2 **Old Saxon Road:** No member disagreed with the principle of sending a letter in support of a claim to upgrade a footpath on the line of the old Saxon Road to bridleway. It was agreed, however, that the draft letter was too long and unnecessarily detailed. The project sub group will edit and submit on behalf of the Network.

3.3 **Local Signs:** Dilys has spotted good examples in other local authority areas. She agreed to bring photographs to a future meeting for members to discuss.

3.4 **Vacant Poles and Missing Signs:** A list of the former has been reported to Highways. A list of the latter should be drawn up and submitted to Tim Birch.

3.5 **Waterside Road:** No progress has been made on the proposals to repair and adopt this road.

4.0 Projects

4.1 **Local Walks:** Margaret Jones, Public Rights of Way Officer reported that she had received complaints from 3 landowners arising from the distribution of the walks leaflet. The complaints arose because the land and property owners were unaware of the project to promote local walks. Margaret explained that whilst it was not compulsory to do so, it was recommended that property owners be approached out of courtesy and to address any concerns they may have. In most instances fears can be allayed and compromises reached on routes. In 2 of the 3 complaints the property owners were satisfied with an explanation of what was going on and why groups of people clutching leaflets were walking passed their house. The third has proposed an alternative route to avoid people walking through the property. Margaret is satisfied with the proposal, which would be a concessionary route, and will assist with putting up signs (white arrows) to denote the diversion, providing the Network is happy with the change.

Walks
Sub
Group

DD

DD

MJ

Action

Members agreed that the proposed diversion was acceptable and will revise the wording of the leaflet accordingly. Margaret will have sight of the changes and will speak to the complainants before they are finalised. Changes can be made only to the version on the web but a sign could also be put up on the walk at the point at which the diversion starts.

MJ

As a new stile is required on the diversion a formal request was made by Tracy for a dog stile.

MJ

A re-print of the leaflet is unlikely given the Network's ambition to promote other walks and the difficulty of raising the necessary funds. Any future printed leaflets, it was agreed, should provide more direction to users to encourage them to respect the property through which they are walking. This may require specific 'instructions' to be made at appropriate points in the walk description, for example, 'please ensure this gate is closed properly behind you' or 'the stock in this field is this farmer's livelihood, please keep your dog on a leash'. It was also agreed that Margaret should be kept apprised of the development of any further promoted walks and should see a proof copy of the associated leaflet. It would be courteous to let affected property owners see a proof copy and the Network should ensure a copy of the final leaflet is sent to all property owners on the route.

There was a short discuss on covering the cost of future printing. The Network needs to shop around for the best price, sponsorship needs to be considered, a small charge maybe levied to offset costs, more use needs to be made of the web, using formats that allow walkers to run off copies of one route at a time.

Margaret was thanked for her advice and guidance and left the meeting at this point.

- 4.2 **Tram Shelter:** Julie is waiting for a response from the Council on finance and until it is received the Network agreed that no further payments are to be made for works on the shelter. It is hoped the response will have been made within a month.

It was noted that complaints had been received about both the lack of seating in the shelter and the proposal to replace it. Councillor Slater will have to balance the needs of the shelter users against the problems mis-use of the shelter causes for nearby residents. Presently, however, there are no funds to re-instate seating.

The weather vane has been made. It will be installed when a cherry picker is available. When the date for fixing is known the opening can be arranged.

- 4.3 **Fund Raising:** The group discussed its current fund raising programme. It was agreed that there was insufficient time to find organise an event to replace the race night arranged for 17th October (the 'race man' is unavailable that night). Julie will speak to Steve Hartley about the Network having a presence at the Rosins' Bonfire Night event: a bottle stall was suggested. It was agreed a quiz night with pie supper should be arranged for January or February next year.

JS

Tim outlined a folk group event planned for the Barlow to promote the neighbourhood board. If successful another event could be held in East Rural, this time with the objective of raising funds for the group. The group agreed to review the proposal.

4.4 **Reservoir Fence:** United Utilities' solicitors have referred the matter to the Highway Authority on the grounds that the culvert was constructed by it when the road was metalled and is therefore its responsibility. This matter is out of the Network's hands and will maintain a watching brief only.

4.5 **Yate & Pickup Bank Project:** Tim reported that the Parish Council is being assisted by Neighbourhood Management with this project.

4.6 **Britain in Bloom:** Diane has registered an interest and is waiting for an area representative of the RHS to contact her.

It was noted that the flower beds around the war memorial were of a very poor quality and are not being maintained. Julie will take this up with the Council but the key issue is ensuring the Council works alongside the Network if a Britain in Bloom entry is made.

JS

5.0 Member's Updates

5.1 **ERYCA:** An exhibition of old photographs of the area will be on display from 10 – 4 on 26th September in the Carus Centre. A slide show will also be given upstairs.

5.2 **Blacksnape Residents:** Martin's written report was read out. The Blacksnape web site www.blacksnape.co.uk is up and running again. The re-launched Resident's Group has its inaugural meeting tonight (15th September) and hopes to formalise into an elected body. The first event planned is a carol concert at the Red Lion in December. Network and other group events and activities are posted on the web site. If members have submissions for the site send them to martyn@blacksnape.co.uk

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 **Neighbourhood Plans:** A free event is being held to launch the neighbourhood plans at Derwent Hall, Darwen on 22nd September from 6-8 pm. A hot buffet will be available from 5:15. There will be information about funding opportunities and senior staff of the Regeneration & Environment Department will be in attendance to answer questions. All members of the Network are invited and should use the event to promote the Network and its activities.

All

6.2 **Cash for Communities:** It is subject to confirmation but the rural event to allocate Cash for Communities moneys should be held on 10th November at the Barlow Institute.

6.3 **Funding Sub Group:** A sub-group meeting was arranged to put together a Cash for Communities submission and discuss options for a presence at the Bonfire Event. It will be held on Tuesday 6th October at the Carus Centre.

Funding
Sub
Group

6.4 **Network Web Site:** It was suggested consideration be given to the establishment of a Network web site. If one is set up it will need a named person to maintain it and keep it up to date. The issue needs further discussion.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Network will be held on **Tuesday 10th November 2009, 7:30 p.m.** at the **Rosins Country Hotel, Pickup Bank**