

**COMMUNITY COHESION THEMATIC GROUP MEETING
2.00pm, 24th September 2010, West Lancashire Investment Centre**

Present:

Cllr Bob Pendleton	Acting Chair	Tracey Jardine	LCC
David Tilleray	WLBC	Greg Mitten	WL CVS
John Buck	Lancashire Fire & Rescue	Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Clare Pollard	Age Concern	Pam Smith	LCC
Gina Moran	Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College	Jeanette Hickey	Lancashire Constabulary
Joanne Latham	LCC		

In attendance: Martin Bradley, Pendle Community Network

1. Apologies

Cllr Ashcroft
Cllr Baldock
Cllr Mee
Dawn Clarke
Robert Johnstone
John Miller
Grant Murdoch
Phyllis Roberts

2. Individual Introductions

Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 14th May 2010 were Agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Tracey Jardine gave an update on the 'Give it a Go' competition. The winning team for West Lancashire 'Farmer Stu Enterprises' worm farm project is progressing well. They have identified a gap in the market and are considering three local sites to work from. They are also developing a Business Plan.

Q - BP – when is the LCC countywide competition to be held?

A - TJ – in November 2010 the winner will be announced.

BP – other competitors will need innovation and business support to move forward.

5. Pendle Community Network

Martin Bradley – Rural Training and Development Officer

The Rural Development and Training Project is funded by Capacity Builders which is being led by Pendle Community Network. It aims to support rural groups and communities across Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale and Hyndburn which have traditionally lacked the level of support enjoyed by their urban counterparts. Due to physical isolation these groups often do not receive communications about the range of financial opportunities and other resources that are available to help them develop. They have also found it difficult to participate in the decision making process that affect them due to a lack of timely information and the necessary skills and support that would encourage them to engage.

A Rural Voices/Rural Action workshop was held in October 2009. The following main proposals were discussed at the workshop:

- Pendle-Wide Rural Forum
- Dialogue with Councils
- Update Parish Plans
- Support Agencies to engage
- Challenge Rural Myths

A rural forum was set up with representative from Parish Councils and LSP and is due to be held next month. There is also a conference in June for Agencies – 'How to engage with Rural Communities'

For more information on the project visit www.pendlecommunitynetwork.org.uk

A question and answers session followed:

Q - MN – Rural Forum – how did you encourage people to join?

A - MB- There was difficulty in engaging, we worked with Help Direct, advertised on the local radio, in newspapers and put leaflets through doors. We found the timing and location of the first meeting was wrong.

Q - MN – Did you find antipathy between rural/urban communities bearing in mind community cohesion?

A - MB – Pendle Borough Council did not see this as an issue.

PS – – Martin's project has been brought to the Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership to share good practice.

6. Update on the Mythbusting Project in West Lancashire

Pam distributed a handout (attached) with an update from Saulo Cwerner, LCC's Cohesion Partnership Officer.

7. Feedback from Lancashire Partnership themed event

Pam Smith gave an update on the last Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership event which focused on Community Cohesion in rural/urban areas.

8. Tensions Monitoring

Jeanette Hickey explained to the group that Lancashire constabulary were putting together an action plan to pick up on tensions in communities in them not feeling safe. These tensions and any intelligence need to be fed into the neighbourhood community beat manager to stop any tensions escalating.

Q - TJ – Is there a protocol in place for agencies to contact the CBM?

A - JH – The CBM works in partnership with agencies and any information can be passed onto them. Please bear in mind though that if it is an urgent matter requiring police assistance immediately then you should go through the normal procedures of contacting the police and not to leave messages on CBM's voicemails.

Q -BP – Can we use PACT meetings to raise awareness?

A - JH – PACT meetings are the forums to deal with these issues

9. Action Plan – verbal feedback from leads

Action No 2. Provide Assistance to the Community Food Growing Strategy

- Performance has achieved more than the original targets that had been set
- Little Digmaor and Roby Mill allotments have brought two different communities together who would not normally engage with each other. They are sharing their experiences and best practice of allotments/food growing
- Roby Mill – another piece of spare land has been identified as a potential community allotment with approx 25 plots

Action No 3. Promote through the CCTG the growth of community based and managed time banks

- The Rural Outreach Plus Worker provided by Help Direct is proving popular with the community
- Help Direct are identifying gaps in services and developing themed time banks eg community transport
- Focusing on training local communities to run time banks for themselves

Action No 4 - Support the development of a LGBT youth group in West Lancashire

- A company has been recruited and has started research with young people to
 - Identify needs of LGBT young people
 - Findings so far show there are provisions in Wigan/Manchester/Liverpool for young people but not in West Lancs
- Funding to support this project has been secured from PCT small grants

Action No 5 - Develop community engagement with disability organisations and groups

- Lancashire Constabulary are delivering 4 training events 'Help to reduce hate crime against people with learning disabilities' have been arranged and are aimed at carers, friends, families involved with people with 'learning difficulties'

Action No 6 – Tension Monitoring – "How Communities Feel"

- Lancashire Constabulary are delivering 3 ½ hour training session with Edge Hill, PCT, College, Help Direct – 'What is Hate Crime'?

Action No. 7 - People & Communities Thematic Group

- The group haven't met since the last Community Cohesion meeting. Further update to be provided at the next meeting.

10. Exchange of Information

Greg Mitten requested it to be minuted that in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review he would like to acknowledge all the work put in by strategic bodies.

Mandy Naylor – Gardening services to West Lancashire. 'Man for All Seasons' – Social Enterprise starting on 18th October already taking referrals.

John Buck - 9 Volunteers to work with the Fires Service are due to start in October, predominantly in Chorley, Tarleton and Hesketh Bank. They will be recruiting in West Lancashire until mid November.

11. AOB

There were no items

12. Proposed items for next meeting

- LCC report on VCFS review
- Big Society impact on cohesion