

.Minutes of the Environmental Committee
Held at the Civic Hall Lee Street, Uppermill
On Monday 14th April 2008

There were present Cllr. Mr. K. Hulme – Chairman
 Cllr. Mrs. A. Parry – Vice Chairman
Cllrs. Mr. R Franklin, Mr. B. Cullen & Mrs. A. McInnes,

Richard Godley (Peak Park)
Graham Gibbons (Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale)
Doug Murray – Oldham Countryside Service
Graham Parker (GGRA)

73. Apologies for Absence – Mr. K Begley & Mr. A. Hodgkiss

74. Minutes of last meeting – Matters arising

Heritage Festival. – A consultant - John Manning is co-ordinating the programme of events for the South Pennine Walk and Ride Festival 2008., he is asking individuals and organisations to organise and lead walks, cycle rides or other events. It was agreed that the Parish Council should offer to organise a walk around Dovestones that would be suitable for walkers and the disabled. It was suggested that other walks could be arranged, possibly around some of the villages.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan – The volunteers are now in place, the co-ordinators are going to organise a trial run with their volunteers to ensure a consistent approach..

Huddersfield Canal – Councillors Begley, Franklin and Hulme attended the meeting in February, they were well received and have been invited to attend future meetings which are held twice a year. A horseboat day is being held on May 4th, guests will meet at the Museum before travelling on the horseboat along the canal.

Swan Meadows – sewerage appears to be leaking onto the field, Doug Murray will investigate.

75. Himalayan Balsam – Councillors Hulme and Parry met with Doug Murray and Graham Gibbon to explore funding opportunities. It was agreed that the Parish Council should submit an application to Awards for All for £1,370, if the application is successful it will enable us to hold an additional 5 events. Additional funding may also be available from an Oldham Eco grant, Graham Gibbons will investigate the feasibility. It is proposed to hold 5 community events and 5 school events from funding provided by the Parish Council. A programme needs to be drawn up, to include re-visiting sites on last years programme. Members were requested to e-mail details of known sites to Graham Gibbons at Groundwork. Publicity will be arranged in the local media, including Saddleworth Monthly and the provision of

flyers and posters. The dates will need to be flexible dependant on the growing season. Peak Park funding will not be available for this project this year, although it may be available for other projects such as the Visitor Information Service.

- 76. Recycling** – Deferred until after May
- 77. Toilets** – the report on the provision of public toilets has now been published. There are number of options including leasing by private operators, sponsorship or a Community Toilet scheme that operates in some Council areas, particularly Richmond-on-Thames. A question on toilet provision will be included in the Parish Plan questionnaire. It was agreed that public toilet provision should form part of a tourism strategy, the Council needs to discuss with Oldham MBC how it can be advanced, we also need to involve Pubwatch and the Saddleworth Business Association
- 78. Water Power** – The Peak Park have assisted with the funding of the New Mills scheme and are looking at any hydro possibilities within Saddleworth. Chris Davies MEP, Phil Woolas MP and the North West Development Agency are all involved in looking at hydro projects.
- 79. Community Spaces funding** – Graham Gibbons informed the meeting that grants of £10,000 to £20,000 are available to support projects run by community groups. There is a two stage application process, Graham will provide further information.
- 80. Date of next meeting** – it was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub Committee will be on Monday 19th May at 7.30 pm