

.Minutes of the Environmental Committee
Held at the Civic Hall Lee Street, Uppermill
On Monday 5th November 2007

There were present Cllr. Mr. K. Hulme – Chairman
 Cllr. Mrs. A. Parry – Vice Chairman
 Cllrs. Mr. K Begley., Mr. R Franklin, Mr. B. Cullen & Mrs. A. McInnes,
 Graham Gibbons (Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale)

- 52. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mr. A Hodgkiss
 Richard Godley – Peak Park
 Alicia Marland – Grotton Residents Association
 Doug Murray – Oldham Countryside Service

53. Minutes of last meeting – Matters arising

Minute 35 – Heritage Festival. – The Festival has taken place, there were no events in Saddleworth., The Clerk will write to Pennine Prospects asking for the Parish Council to be put on the mailing list and urge them to involve the Council in the future. We also need to involve Councillor Dave Hibbert. It is intended that the Parish Council would also involve the Historical Society and Civic Trust. The Peak Park may also want to be involved as they try to engage with communities outside the boundaries of the Peak Park.

Minute 49 – Recycling – The issue needs be discussed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on a regular basis. There are insufficient sites within Saddleworth for re-cycling, we need a facility similar to the one at Shaw on a smaller scale. Consideration needs to be given to the use of Section 106 monies or Green Landfill tax to fund such a development . It was agreed that Jo Stanley, OMBC Waste Minimisation Promotion Officer, will be invited to the January Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Minute 54 – Rights of Way Improvement Plan – A Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting was held to discuss the plan. A Rights of Way Improvement working group was created including Parish Councillors, representatives from the Ramblers Association. West Pennine Bridleways and the Civic Trust. The Rights of Way Officer, Terence Cavanagh and Doug Murray from the Oldham Countryside Service.

There first task is to check the condition of the areas public footpaths and Bridleways, as an add on they are trying to collate information on all the small paths/ginnels/snicketts which are regularly used as short cuts by people but not included on the definitive footpath map. This information may prove invaluable if a developer decides to remove it in order to build over it. Each ward has a Councillor who has special responsibility to pull together this information:

Delph & Denshaw	Councillor Mr. Keith Begley
Dobcross & Diggle	Councillor Mr. Royce Franklin

Greenfield & Grascroft	Councillor Mrs. Anne Parry
Springhead Lower	Councillor Mrs. Barbara Beeley
Springhead Higher	Councillor Mr. Mike Buckley
Uppermill	Councillor Mrs. Alma McInnes

One concern is the lack of public toilet facilities, Councillor Royce Franklin will contact the British Toilet Association for advice. It was agreed that the issue of toilet facilities in Saddleworth should be discussed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee.

- 54. Himalayan Balsam** – Graham Gibbons informed the meeting that all the Community events in Saddleworth had been completed. The programme had been very successful, a report is being finalised for presentation to the Council, this will include a list of recommendations and suggested plan for next year. Groundwork can map using GIS. It was agreed that the report will be discussed at the January Finance & General Purposes Committee

Graham to speak to Peak Park to discuss possible funding for future work. Need to continue to engage with Community Associations and investigate possible funding from Mersey Basin, Onyx, Countryside Agency and support from Oldham Countryside Service.

- 55. Huddersfield Canal** – Councillors thought that better use could be made of the Canal. It was agreed that the Huddersfield Canal Society would be informed of our concerns and asked whether we could provide any assistance.
- 56. Shrubs over-growing pavements** – there are concerns about land-owners who allow shrubs to over-grow onto pavements – the matter is being considered by the Devolution of Services Working group
- 57. Date of next meeting** – it was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub Committee will be on Monday 21st January at 7.30 pm