

Hoyland Milton & Rockingham Joint Ward Alliance
Notes of meeting held Tuesday 18th November 2014.
The Hoyland Centre

Present: Cllr. Jim Andrews, Cllr. Tim Shepherd, Cllr. Chris Lamb, Cllr. Robin Franklin, Cllr. Mick Stowe, Albert Bishop, Janet Cartwright, Dave Graham, Fiona Tennyson, Anne Sanderson, Ian Warhurst, Andy Hodgkinson, Neil Spencer

Wendy Slater (Senior Locality Support Officer)
Joan Whittaker (Alliance Secretary)

Apologies: Cllr. Emma Dures, Kate Faulkes, Amanda Bradshaw, Tanya Dickinson, June Walker.

Cllr Tim Shepherd chaired the meeting.

1. Welcomes and Introductions
2. Minutes of Meeting held 16th September 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 16.09.2014 were accepted as a true record. Following the recent announcement of the cross country link to HS2, Rachael Blake has offered to come and update the Alliance on this and talk about exceptional hardship scheme. Resolved to accept this offer and Wendy to liaise.

3. Tidy Team Update

Ian mentioned how well the tidy team had come together and that they had plenty of work on. They were getting good feedback from the public and in the short time they had been going they had collected over 3 tons of cans which were being weighed in and put back into funding the team.

Neil confirmed a figure of approximately £560 has been achieved for the cans and informed the meeting that it will all be ploughed back to the Tidy Team Funds. Ian was asked how much notice the Tidy Team required if asked to work with a community group planning an event. The questioner was informed that 48/72 hours should be sufficient.

Generally speaking, the Tidy Team plan to have a couple of days doing reactive work and then a couple of days doing proactive work, leaving a buffer in between so that if something came in at short notice, it could be factored in.

4. Enforcement.

The Chair informed the meeting that as Fiona Tennyson was in attendance, he would like to add enforcement to the agenda.

Fiona reported that to date there had been approximately 70 tickets issued in the Wombwell and Hoyland areas. It has been noted that the figures for the second month are not as high as the first. This is probably due to the public taking note of the fact that they are likely to be fined, which of course is the purpose. It has been remarked at other meetings that Wombwell High Street is really looking a lot better. She has not, however, had any comments about Hoyland Town Centre, but would like to think that it is better than it was. It has freed up their generic enforcement officer to do all the other work, such as planning complaints, abandoned cars, untidy gardens and fly tipping. Approximately 70 tickets have been issued but it does not mean that they all been paid. They will eventually, as they will have to go to court, but we must be mindful that staff are engaged in chasing them up. Cllr. Shepherd said that he knew of one repeat offender and Fiona confirmed that it was a person who owned a Rottweiler – that person will now have two fines to pay.

Cllr. Shepherd informed the meeting that councillors were briefed earlier in the day that parking enforcement is ongoing and the necessary personnel have received training and the scheme should be operation in early December.

5. Promotion of Ward Alliance Funding

a) Hemingfield Colliery.

There are road safety issues and because of the problems with safety and planning, we feel that if we said yes to this application, then our hands would be tied if and when a planning application was made, as we would be deemed to be supporting an application for something we consider unsafe.

We have, therefore, asked the Area Manager if she would set up a meeting with the applicants and Planning and Highways Departments so that we can sit down and get an in depth briefing and understanding as to where we are with the project in total and then bring the conclusions back to this meeting. It is not being said that it is not a good bid, but there are aspects that need to be clarified. Agreed to defer.

b) Bid from Hemingfield Action Group

Ian Warhurst spoke to this bid. The question was asked as to which funding pot this should come from. Cllr. Lamb said that upon reading through the application, he could see it fitting neatly into the Public Health section. Wendy informed the meeting that anything approved would be scrutinised by their finance expert, who would fit it in the most appropriate funding pot.

The bid was accepted by the meeting with Ian Warhurst abstaining.

c) Ratification of bid from We Are Hoyland.

This bid was sent out to members electronically and approved. It has stimulated a massive amount of social interaction and for this reason there is talk of extending through to Easter. One of the greatest causes of illness in the elderly is loneliness, so it was felt that the more of this type of social activity working for the community can only be a good thing.

6. Alliance Monitoring.

By way of background, we have been asked do some self-assessments on the ward alliances to see if you think they are working, whether there needs to be any improvements and whether as a group or individually there needs to be any further training to make the Alliance more productive in the future. The first stage is obviously to get everybody's views as to how they feel about being on a ward alliance, whether they understand what is expected and suchlike. We have a few ways of doing this, one is that you can do it by interactive voting, which gives you a chance to answer the questions all at once, have a discussion about them whilst you are there and we can give instant feedback on where people sit with that. Alternatively I have got the questionnaire printed and they can be emailed round so that you can either return it electronically, or fill it in at your leisure and get it back to us.

The question is – are you happy to do an assessment of the Ward Alliance and if so, how do you want to do it. You don't have to all agree to doing it the same way. Some might want to do it interactively and others might feel happier having a paper version. All we ask is that if you do want the interactive, there are at least seven or eight people because otherwise it skews all the results.

Cllr. Shepherd informed the meeting that elected members have already completed their assessments electronically. Cllr. Stowe felt it was important that we complete this exercise so that we can assess what training and development we might need for anyone who is on the ward alliance or potentially might want to be on the alliance. We need to have a training programme in place and an induction process. Agreed that they will be sent to members electronically

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Tuesday 10th March 2015.

All meetings at Hoyland Centre at 17.00 hours.