

## Menston Neighbourhood Forum

### Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Alan Elsegood, Sue Rix, Quentin Mackenzie, Lili McCulloch, Steve Ellams, Graham Booth, Inspector Sue Sanderson, and approximately 35 members of the public

**Apologies:** Coun. Dale Smith, Julia Bateson.

#### Menston Community Association Meeting

##### 1. Welcome

Alan Elsegood welcomed everyone to Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

##### 2. Crime issues and home safety

Inspector Sue Sanderson gave an update on local crime and safety issues. She explained that the Police had decided to stop providing newsletters as a cost-saving measure. All crime data is now available on the West Yorkshire Police website (<http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/airedale-north-bradford/wharfedale-craven>) and PCSO Darrin Thompson can deliver copies of the newsletter to anyone without internet access.

Seven crimes had been reported in Menston in May. There were no domestic burglaries, although there were some incidents of “burglary other” – sheds and garages which may have easier access. Mountain bikes have been targeted recently and Inspector Sanderson recommended installing an alarm system or floor padlocks. There was also one incident of theft from a vehicle and one incident of criminal damage. Inspector Sanderson commented that overall crime levels have decreased when compared with the same period in 2011: domestic burglary has decreased by 50% (from 12 to 6 incidents), theft from a vehicle has decreased from 16 to 9 incidents, criminal damage has decreased from 13 to 8 incidents, whereas burglary other has increased from 8 to 10 incidents.

The police are happy to provide crime prevention advice to any local resident.

Inspector Sanderson reported that the Cold Calling Control Zone has now been introduced. This has been funded by Menston Parish Council and information packs have been circulated to every household and notices have been installed on the lamp posts – the size and location of these notices is prescribed by highway regulations. The Police run the zones in conjunction with West Yorkshire Joint Services (previously known as West Yorkshire Trading Standards) and may consider extending the zone later this year.

Inspector Sanderson reported that the Police have to make a 15% budget cut this year and also in 2015. They would like the cuts to have a minimal impact on the service. One possible cost-saving measure is the closure of the police desk at Ilkley. This is currently open for 40 hours each week, but was shown to receive less than 1% of all police customers in a recent review. One possible solution may be to close the desk for specific times. Comments made by members of the audience ranged from never using the Ilkley station, to needing to know which station is open. It was also suggested that the police could consider merging premises with the fire and ambulance service in order to retain a visible presence.

A question was asked about the identification of personal possessions using a “tube”. Inspector Sanderson commented that this may involve “smart water”. This has been used in “capture cars”, and is available to buy from DIY shops, but is generally not used by West Yorkshire Police.

A question was asked about scrap metal dealers. Inspector Sanderson explained that all scrap metal dealers have been asked to sign an agreement and to provide some identification. All local dealers (apart from one in Keighley) have signed. Central Government is currently considering an amendment to existing legislation which would impose cashless trading for scrap metal.

Alan Elsegood thanked Inspector Sanderson for her report.

### **3. Menston Community Association update**

Alan Elsegood thanked Paula Truman for agreeing to schedule Menston-related business first on the agenda.

Menston Community Association has been involved in a joint working party, which also includes Menston Parish Council and Menston Action Group. The working party’s main remit is examining the effect of planning issues on the village and surrounding areas. In addition to opposing the Bingley Road and Derry Hill developments, the Community Association has also produced a comprehensive objection to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy which proposes an additional 600 dwellings in Menston – in addition to the 300 already proposed for the Bingley Road and Derry Hill developments. The LDF also forecasts that by 2028 Menston and Burley-in-Wharfedale will become towns. This forecast is very unpopular with local residents who want to maintain the village identity and favour small-scale developments.

Alan Elsegood explained that a number of the letters which he has sent to Bradford Council’s Planning Department and also to the City Solicitor have not been acknowledged or answered. The Local Government Ombudsman cannot examine any complaints until the local authority’s own complaints procedure has been exhausted – so no progress can be made until a response from Bradford Council has been received. He will be contacting the City Solicitor and asking her to redress this issue.

Menston Community Association needs more committee members. All Menston residents are automatically members of the Community Association. Committee elections take place at the Neighbourhood Forum meeting in November and the Committee meets on ten occasions each year for approximately two hours each meeting.

Quentin Mackenzie thanked Alan Elsegood for his presentation and the MCA Committee for all their hard work.

**4. A review of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and events**

Sue Rix presented a summary of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and events. The celebrations started on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June with the fancy-dress procession and fair at Menston Primary School followed by the Jubilee Dance at Kirklands in the evening. Unfortunately the ten-team cricket tournament planned for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June had to be postponed due to the terrible weather.

The Jubilee Walk on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June attracted more than 200 people and more than 100 medals were distributed to successful walkers. The Motor Vehicle Show in the afternoon was a resounding success

Sue Rix thanked everyone who had been involved, especially those behind the scenes and everyone who took on more than one job.

Alan Elsegood endorsed the vote of thanks and also thanked Shipley Area Committee for their generous Jubilee grants.

**5. Menston Parish Council update**

Quentin Mackenzie gave an update about the recent activities of the Parish Council. The last meeting of the Parish Council was the Annual Parish Council meeting where the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen are elected. The officers were all re-elected. The Parish Council has been very busy planning the Diamond Jubilee events. The Planning Committee has played a key role in opposing the Derry Hill and Bingley Road developments. Amongst the planning applications discussed at the last meeting was an application to extend the buildings at Derry Hill Farm.

**6. Menston in Bloom**

Quentin Mackenzie also gave an update about the recent activities of Menston in Bloom. Menston in Bloom have been very grateful for two £500 grants which have been received from Shipley Area Committee. These will be used to improve the Railway Garden and Butterfield Park where the fence is being reinstated.

Quentin Mackenzie informed the meeting that one picnic table has now been installed in Menston Park and two more are to be installed shortly. The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cllr Dale Smith, has planted two Dawn Redwoods in Menston Park to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

Menston in Bloom have also been busy with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. They decorated Main Street with greenery, and ran the Strawberry Tea and Plant Sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June which raised £880.

Menston in Bloom will shortly be planting the summer bedding in preparation for the summer judging of Yorkshire in Bloom which will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

The Friends of High Royds Memorial Garden will be holding an Open Day from 10.00am until 1.00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> July and the recently restored chapel will be open to view. High Royds Memorial Garden and part of High Royds will also be open as part of the National Heritage weekend on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September and will feature as part of the Leeds Heritage Trail.

## **7. Planning Issues**

Graham Booth gave an update about the Bingley Road and Derry Hill planning applications. The Secretary of State has decided not to call in the applications. The next step is a judicial review and foundations are now in place to progress this issue. Members of the community at risk of flooding have signed an agreement to authorise Menston Action Group to act on their behalf.

A drainage expert has recently agreed to advise David Rhodes about the drainage issues for both sites and to paraphrase the specific technical terminology into language that can be understood by planners and architects.

Steve Ellams gave an update about the Village Green application. The necessary information to support the application has been assembled and he thanked everyone who has contributed. He also mentioned a local journalist, Claire Herriot from ITV, who is compiling a large story about the village opposition to the Bingley Road and Derry Hill developments.

Alan Elsegood gave an update about WARD. Graham Booth, Steve Ellams and Alan Elsegood are on the WARD Committee and have been busy helping the local community in Rawdon to form an Action Group to oppose a proposed housing development at Rawdon Billing. As there is currently no representation in Aireborough, WARD are spearheading the movement to establish a Neighbourhood Forum for Aireborough.

The A65 traffic study commissioned by WARD in 2011 and part-funded by Menston Parish Council and Menston Community Association was presented to Bradford Council in advance of the Planning Panel in February and will be used as evidence in the opposition to the LDF framework.

Seven local MPs have become members of WARD; Philip Davies, Stuart Andrew and Greg Mulholland are the most vociferous. WARD also has a website [www.wardyorkshire.org](http://www.wardyorkshire.org).

It was suggested that the articles of association for the proposed Neighbourhood Forum should include an agreement to liaise with neighbouring parish councils, and that the Neighbourhood Forum be used to produce a Neighbourhood Plan or Area Action Programme. It was agreed that this suggestion would be raised at the next meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Neighbourhood Forum**

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Paula Truman, the Bradford Council Ward Officer for Wharfedale introduced herself and commented on the successful Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

### **2. Update on Neighbourhood Service and Council Wardens**

Paula Truman gave an update about the Neighbourhood Service and the Council Wardens. Ten Council Wardens cover Shipley Ward and Liz Bailey is the representative for Menston. She also has the power to issue penalty tickets for dog fouling and car parking.

Shipley Area Committee now has its own dedicated street cleansing team, and any concerns about street cleaning should be reported to Paula Truman.

Paula also explained that Bradford Council is running a series of Climate Change Advice Days and this includes one at Menston in August.

### **3. Open Forum**

A question was asked about recycling and whether the current plastics recycling scheme in Baildon and Bingley will be extended across the rest of the District. Paula agreed to investigate and circulate any more information about plastics recycling.

A comment was made about the Public Right of Way across Derry Hill and how overgrown it has become, and the legal status of the barbed wire. Paula explained that Bradford Council are responsible for the maintenance of the footpath and agreed to investigate the legality of the barbed wire.

A question was asked whether the cuts in services at Bradford Council would affect Menston. Paula commented that many teams have now been relocated to Shipley from Bradford and it is hoped that this would provide a more efficient service, although it is very difficult to know whether Menston Library will be affected, although it is a well-used resource.

A comment was made that pavement sweeping carried out recently had taken place before the bin collection had been made. Paula thanked the local resident and agreed to pass this comment onto the Clean Team.

A question was asked about dog fouling on Main Street. Paula advised everyone to report dog fouling on 01274 431000. The Clean Team will clean it up and the Police and Council Wardens will target the dog walkers.

A comment was made about the frequency of gully cleaning. Paula advised everyone to report blocked gullies on 01274 431000 as there may not be a regular rota.

Paula Truman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 9.00pm.