

**Community Outlook
Scrutiny Committee**



Date	Wednesday 21 January 2009
Venue	The Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Fabian Craig-Wilson (Vice Chairman) Cheryl Little, Louis Rigby, Howard Henshaw, John Singleton
Other Councillors	Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse
Officers	Clare Platt, Christine Miller, Annie Womack
Others	County Cllr Bernard Whittle

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 November 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Cllr Cheryl Little for Councillor Brenda Ackers

4. Lower Lane, Freckleton

In 2008, the Scrutiny Management Board agreed to include a review of the Lower Lane project within the Work Plan of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee. The review was requested by County Councillor Bernard Whittle, Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership. This report is to appraise the Committee of the main points for its consideration in order that it can then scope out its review.

The report was introduced by Christine Miller, Fylde Local Strategic Partnership Manager, who provided the members of the committee with "before and after" photographs from the Lower Lane Estate.

She explained the background to the project that had been centred on the estate, and which had the involvement of various agencies. In general it was noted that there was a lack of equipment for young people, and the estate was in a poor state of repair generally.

The headmaster of the local school had expressed his view that a homework club was needed so that children could access computers to help them with their homework and to achieve academically. There were high levels of nuisance and disorder on the estate, and

the police welcomed the idea as an aid to mitigating that problem. LCC added resource to the area to organise a Youth Club - both the Youth Club and the Homework Club were to take place in the community building, which was to be kitted out by utilising money from the community safety partnership and the LSP.

Other agencies involved were the School, the Princes Trust through Fire and Rescue, New Fylde Housing and the community members themselves.

The community building was repaired and renovated, there was an organised clean-up of rubbish and general repair to the estate. A youth shelter and refurbishment of the play area was also undertaken funded by the Community Safety Partnership together with on-going repairs.

The work that was undertaken was a great success, but unfortunately it has not been sustained. A lack of waste bins has led to an increase in litter problems, and there is no play equipment on the estate.

County Councillor Bernard Whittle was invited to address the committee and he gave his views on the project, expressing concerns that all partners are perhaps not as committed as they could be, and that he hoped that the Task & Finish Group of this scrutiny committee could re-engage with them and with the community to provide a sustainable solution.

Following a full debate the committee RESOLVED:

1. To set up an initial meeting of the Task & Finish Group to scope the review, with a view to making the work on Lower Lane sustainable in the future, involving again the original partners in the scheme.

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