

**MICKLE TRAFFORD COMMUNITY FORUM
St Oswald's Primary School
4 February 2010
(6.30pm – 9:00pm)**

Cllrs Present: Councillor Eleanor Johnson (Chair)
Councillor Brian Crowe

Speakers: David Owen Policy Manager
Police Inspector Hodgson
Fire Service John Salt

Officers: Rob Callow Rural West Area Team
Debra Brown Rural West Area Team
Simon Goacher Head of Finance

Meeting Summary and Action Points

Welcome from Councillor Eleanor Johnson

The Chair, Councillor Johnson declared the meeting open and welcomed members of the public and speakers.

John Salt, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

John Salt outlined the need for vulnerable residents to have home fire safety checks. To arrange a home safety assessment residents can complete the online request form on the fire service website, www.cheshirefire.gov.uk or contact 0800 389 0053

A question was asked about the difficulty opening smoke alarms in order to replace batteries. John explained that battery compartments are deliberately made difficult to open to reduce the risk of people removing batteries and using them on other appliances leaving the alarm without batteries.

A question was asked about the mapping used to identify the locations serious road traffic collisions take place. John explained that detailed analysis was undertaken on location, the possible cause and recommendations on how to reduce future incidents.

Police Inspector Hodgson: Report

Police Inspector Hodgson gave a report on the key issues in the area over recent weeks.

- One local property was being used as a cannabis farm. Suspicions were reported by local people and this has now been closed down. Anyone with suspicions should report them to the local police (i.e. Skips continuously being filled, a lot of people coming and going, unusual smells etc)
- Agricultural equipment is regularly being stolen from farms and sold on, Inspector Hodgson reminded people that they should question where it has come from if thinking of purchasing equipment
- Markets and car boots are prime places for stolen goods to be sold, people should be aware and report anything suspicious.
- The police are always working on drug dealing and people trafficking and prostitution. Please report anything suspicious.

David Owen: Boundary Commission Review

David Owen outlined the process for the Boundary Commission review of ward boundaries and informed the forum that the consultation process is now closed. The Council is now waiting the final decision of the commission. Residents were advised if they are unhappy with the outcome the only route to raise issues will be through their local Member of Parliament.

Rural West Area Partnership Board Priorities

A workshop was held looking at the three key priorities for the Rural West Area Partnership Board: young people, access to services and transport. Participants were split into two groups and a summary list was produced identifying local issues related to these three themes.

The action list will be followed up by Local Councillors and CWAC staff.

Questionnaire – The Future of the Mickle Trafford Community Forum

A questionnaire was given out at the meeting to gain views of the best day and time on which to run the community forum, also to ask what people would like to see discussed at the forum meetings.

A total of 10 replies were received.

8 of the 10 wanted evening meetings

4 votes for any day, except Friday, 2 votes for Tuesday, 2 votes for Thursday, 3 votes for Wednesday, 1 vote for Friday.

Topics that people would like to see covered are:

- Road safety, transport and roads, speeding, gritting, maintenance
- Planning guidance for parish councils (x4)
- Footpaths/ Right of way and maintenance
- Major and controversial planning applications

- Gypsies and travellers sites
- LDF
- Regional Spatial Strategy
- Access to cycle paths
- Dogs

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date of Next Community Forum Meeting

Thursday 8 April 2010, venue to be confirmed

Forum Contacts:

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