

Area Forum News

Halifax Central

Sowerby Bridge, Park, Skircoat, Town



Welcome to the latest edition of your Halifax Central Area Forum newsletter.

Area Forums are 'open events'.

What happened at the last meeting?

The last meeting held in the Square Chapel on the 11th September 2008 was Chaired by Cllr Tim Swift who welcomed everybody and then introduced the speakers before the public meeting began.

The three presentations were delivered by: - Ian Thompson, Group Director, Regeneration and Development, from Calderdale Council; Rob Webster, Chief Executive of Calderdale PCT; Inspector Pete Smith, Neighbourhood Policing Team Supervisor, Calderdale Police - details of their presentations are in this newsletter.

What does coming to the meeting mean?

People who attended the meeting were able to ask all the agencies present various questions which are too many to list here. Their comments, questions, opinions and of course, the answers could be included in the minutes so if you would like to know more, fill in the form at the back of this newsletter and we will add you to the mailing list or simply give us your e-mail address and we can save on paper.

The agenda for the next meeting which will be held on the 23rd October 2008 at 6.30pm at the Heath Training Centre will cover the following subjects:

- Credit Crunch
- Young people and the issues they have to face
- Support for community groups
- Swimming pools

Cllr Megan Swift

Chair of the Halifax Central Area Forum

Useful Numbers

General Enquiries

(Council switchboard and all other general enquiries)

0845 245 6000

Street Care Enquiries

(including road defects, faulty street lights, missed bins, graffiti and litter)

0845 245 7000

Finance Enquiries

(including, council tax, benefits and payments)

0845 245 8000

Anti Social Behaviour

(For advice and guidance on dealing with anti-social behaviour)

01422 393125

Community Policing

(West Yorkshire Police)

0845 6060606

Information on Council services and minutes of all meetings including Area Forums are available on the Council's website:

www.calderdale.gov.uk



Your new Area Co-ordinator

Halifax Central Area has a new Area Co-ordinator. Her name is Viviana Archer-Todde and her contact details are: 01422 393307, fax 01422 392489, e-mail Viviana.Archer-Todde@calderdale.gov.uk

Presentations from the last meeting

Ian Thompson - Group Director, Regeneration and Development, from Calderdale Council

Ian's presentation informed everyone present that work was to begin in December on the Broad Street development followed by further movement in the near future on Northgate House and the Library offering Halifax the possibility of new shopping areas very near the bus station once the area was re-developed. Ian informed everyone that although there were many changes expected in Halifax the developers would think carefully about the buildings to keep the town in the same style. Watch out for the start of these exciting works. For any further information contact: Ian Thompson tel: 01422 393006

Rob Webster - Chief Executive of Calderdale PCT

Rob gave a talk about the findings from a MORI survey which asked people what they thought about their local doctors' surgeries. A lot of people were very happy

with the service but Rob said he still had more work to do because there were still people who were not happy with the services they were receiving. Rob had statistics for the overall satisfaction rate but if you would like a further breakdown which relates to your particular surgery this can be obtained from the Calderdale PCT directly. Contact details: Gill Jones tel: 01422 281531.

Inspector Pete Smith, Neighbourhood Policing Team Supervisor, Calderdale Police

Pete informed everyone that fortunately since 2004 there were 4,500 fewer crimes reported which was good news. He was aware, however, that surveys and consultations showed that the fear of crime was rising all the time and that there is a lot of work to do to overcome this. Pete told everyone that a lot of work is also being carried out in partnerships for offenders who are released to ensure that they are steered through to a crime free future. To speak to Pete Smith please ring 0845 6060606, in case of emergency please ring 999.

Your councillors

Town	Cllr Bob Metcalfe	Cllr Megan Swift	Cllr Tim Swift
Park	Cllr Mohammad Ilyas	Cllr Zafar Iqbal-Din	Cllr Arshad Mahmood
Sowerby Bridge	Cllr Amanda Byrne	Cllr Andrew Feather	Cllr Martin Peel
Skircoat	Cllr Stephen Gow	Cllr Grenville Horsfall	Cllr Geoffrey Wheelwright



Good News

During the summer a number of Conferences were held to launch the Area Forum meetings. At the Conference, people were very positive. They were happy living in Calderdale and, in particular, living in Sowerby Bridge.

The following were things people liked:

- Lots of different people in one place
- Friendly
- Town yet rural too
- Good facilities
- Great walking
- Very near to big cities
- Lovely walks

Since the summer we have received a lot of comments about things that you have concerns about, we couldn't list them all here as there are a lot.

We've listed some of the things you said and we've given an answer to it alongside.

You said	Our response
We need more pride in Halifax	The council has just launched a new campaign called "Everyone Different Everyone Matters" which is designed to make everyone proud of living in Halifax
You were really happy with Parkinson Lane School	We wrote and told the school what a happy place it is for the students and also told the local authority about the praise received
You wanted raised kerbs for bus stops in Siddal	The Council and Metro had already allocated £150,000 budget for work to be carried out at 18 bus stops on the 542 route before the end of the financial year
You were concerned about parking and traffic flow in Halifax	There is a borough wide parking review and the findings will be available in summer 2009
You said there was a need for traffic calming in Boothtown	Although Boothtown doesn't meet the criteria for fixed speed cameras other measures to reduce speed in this area are being explored. A new lay by will be built near the school and police cars will use this and other places to monitor speed of traffic. We also found out that there will be a new road layout built so that to turn onto Claremont Road will become more of a left turn for traffic.
You were concerned about the level of smoking	In the Halifax Central area 21.4% (or 11,802 people) smoke. However, Calderdale Stop Smoking Service is working to meet the target of lowering this figure by helping 1,000 people per year to smoke less. Last year they helped 1,620 people to stop smoking. If you would like any more details please contact them on 01422 281505



Can't get to an Area Forum?

You can still keep up to date with what's happening. Just contact us with your details and we'll send you the latest Area Forum information, meeting dates, agendas and updates, by post or email.

How to contact us

You can contact your Area Coordinator Viviana Archer-Todde

By telephone on 01422 393307

By fax on 01422 392489

By email at viviana.archer-todde@calderdale.gov.uk

Or fill in the form below and send it to **Community Services, Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax HX1 1UN**

Area Forums

Yes, I would like to receive more information about the Area Forums

Please complete in block capitals

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Which area are you interested in? *(You can tick more than one)*

Upper Valley

Lower Valley

Halifax North and East

Halifax Central

Do you need help with transport to get to an Area Forum event?

All venues will be accessible for wheelchair users and will have an induction loop.
BSL interpreters will be present at Area Forum events.

If you have any other access needs, please let us know: