

Area Forum News

Upper Valley

Calder, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn, Todmorden



Welcome to the latest edition of your Upper Valley Area Forum newsletter.

Area Forums are open events for those who live, work or have an interest in Calder, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn or Todmorden wards.

Your Area Forum gives you a chance to hear about and discuss issues that are important to you.

The next Upper Valley meeting is on

Tuesday 21 October at 6.30 for 7pm start at Todmorden Town Hall

The agenda includes:

- Todmorden town centre development plans
- Housing needs
- Access to Council services
- Caldervale train service
- Open Forum for questions on any topic

Come along and bring your friends, neighbours or colleagues to these meetings especially if they would like to know more about what is happening in their area.

Please do contact the Area Forums team if you would like to raise a topic at future meetings. Ring us, send us an email or write to us - details are on the back of the newsletter.

I look forward to welcoming you to the next Upper Valley Area Forum

Cllr Janet Battye

Chair of the Upper Valley 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

What happened at the last meeting?

The last meeting was held at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge on 9th September and people discussed:

- how to get involved in Council decisions
- supporting businesses in the Upper Valley
- the new arrangements for rubbish collection
- ways to improve travel in the Upper Valley

The full minutes for this meeting are available on the Council's website: www.calderdale.gov.uk.

Decision Making

People wanted to know how Calderdale Council makes its decisions and how they could get involved. Sarah Adolph and Sarah Manfredi from the Council explained the process and suggestions included:

- Wider publicity for the fact that all consultations being undertaken are published on the Council's website www.calderdale.gov.uk
- Public notices need to be advertised in relevant places - local papers, educational and community venues
- Could Legal notices be included in Calderdale Call?

Refuse Collection

Jonathan Phillips, Director of Health and Social Care and Malcolm Akroyd, Waste Manager explained about the new arrangements for Refuse Collection, how the change to wheelie bins would take place and how people who needed help would get it.

Issues were raised about the exclusion of Kerbside from the new contract. Malcolm stated that the Council is still committed to requiring the new contractor to work with the voluntary sector.

Business Support and Sustainability

Officers from Business Link and Calderdale Council talked about support that was available to local businesses. IT support, training and incubation spaces for new businesses were identified as priorities, together with the need to make our town centres vibrant places where independent businesses could flourish. Suggestions included Development Trusts where village residents take over and run local facilities; incentives to revitalise town centres; encouraging Farmers' co-operatives and projects like Incredible Edible Todmorden.

Integrated Transport

Focussed on the question: what would get you out of cars and on to public transport? Two key issues identified from the discussion were: the need to integrate bus and rail services and the need to improve disabled access to train stations and parking provision.

This was followed by an Open Forum which was a chance for people to ask questions on any topic.

Responses to these questions and all the others asked during the meeting will be included in a feedback report at the next meeting on 21 October.

Your councillors

Calder	Cllr Janet Battye	Cllr Nader Fekri	Cllr David O'Neill
Luddendenfoot	Cllr Christine Bampton-Smith	Cllr Peter Coles	Cllr Richard Marshall MBE
Ryburn	Cllr Kay Barret	Cllr Mrs Geraldine Carter	Cllr Robert Thornber
Todmorden	Cllr Ian Cooper	Cllr Mrs Ruth Goldthorpe	Cllr Mrs Olwen Jennings



Since the summer you have raised a lot of issues, some of which are listed here along with our response.

You said	Our response
We need benches to sit on while our children play at White Lee Park playground	We will be installing new benches by December 2008
We want our footpaths and bridleways to be well maintained	Calderdale's Upper Valley has the densest network of public rights of way in the country - their total length is the same as the length of our roads. We have £50,000 to spend each year on maintaining and improving paths across the whole borough and we rely on you to tell us which paths need work so we can spend it wisely. We also have a fantastic group of Countryside Volunteers who work on practical projects to improve the paths. Please ring us on 0845 245 6000 if you want to report a path or join our volunteers.
Young people need more to do in Ripponden	The Council's Young People's Service now run sessions for young people on Tuesday and Saturday in Ripponden. To find out more ring 01706 548186
The way that the traffic lights are set at the junction of Heptonstall Road and the main road through Hebden Bridge means that traffic through the town is stopped unnecessarily.	The trigger points for the lights should be set so that they only detect traffic coming down Heptonstall Road. Our traffic signals consultants are checking to ensure that this is the case.
Is Calderdale Council brave enough to properly confront the impact of road traffic - congestion, pollution (Air Quality Management Areas), danger, noise, dislocation, climate change? Trying to meet motorists' demands for more car parking increases these problems.	The Council is continually trying to balance the requirements and views of its residents. Consultation through Area Forums and other initiatives, such as the Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Traffic Reviews, the Air Quality Management Area action plans, and the major parking review which has just started help Councillors to take an informed view. It is clear that the Council is never going to please everyone: for every person who thinks plentiful cheap parking is essential if local centres are to survive there is someone else who thinks we need to cut down on parking supply and increase charges if we are serious about tackling congestion, air pollution and climate change. It is the Council's job to decide the best route and the more feedback we have on what people want to see the more representative the decision is likely to be, so if you want to see traffic restraint (or growth) please make your voice heard.
<p>Is there to be a review of the 20mph speed limit in Hebden Bridge? 20mph = low speeds = low gears = high pollution + costs</p> <p>It is frustrating to drive through Hebden Bridge at night when the roads are clear.</p> <p>Where are the accident statistics which resulted in this restriction?</p>	<p>All schemes are reviewed after implementation and whilst we will look at the impact of the 20mph limit in Hebden Bridge we have no plans to withdraw it in the short term. Low speeds can, but do not necessarily, equate to increased pollution - for example if the traffic flow is made smoother, rather than stop-start. At the moment national legislation prevents the introduction of a 20mph limit during only part of the day, so while the comments about night time frustration are noted there is little that can be done without removing the restriction entirely.</p> <p>As with any other initiative there are many factors, not just the poor casualty record to consider. The 20mph should certainly help reduce serious injuries but it also helps to reduce the severance the road creates by making it easier and less intimidating to cross. The 20mph limit was widely supported in the consultation on the review, and rather than rush to any short term judgement we will take a considered longer term view of the impact on road safety and other elements before considering the need for any changes.</p>



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 Fi Godfrey-Faussett

By telephone on 01422 392410

By fax on 01422 393183

By email at fi.godfrey-faussett@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: