

## Minutes of Community Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
S Farnsworth	I Sayers
J Hill	G Scott
S Hore	M Sutcliffe
L Rimmer	J White

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Street Scene Manager and Community Development Manager.

Also in attendance: Councillors K Hind, B Jones and J S Sutcliffe.

### 825 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Geldard and A Yearling.

### 826 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 were approved as a correct record subject to the number on minute 777 being amended to minute 667, these were then approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 827 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chairman welcomed Police Sergeant Mick Dixon, who spoke in favour of the retention of the Clitheroe and Whalley CCTV system. He cited numerous examples of how CCTV had helped the police apprehend criminals and solved crimes within Clitheroe and Whalley town centre. He commented that CCTV was used on a daily basis by the police and he referred to current reductions of 10% in crime across the Ribble Valley, some of which must be attributable to CCTV.

### 828 CLITHEROE AND WHALLEY CCTV SYSTEM

The Director of Community Services referred to minute 677 of Committee dated 12 January 2010 and submitted a detailed report tracing the history of the present CCTV system in Clitheroe and Whalley, its funding by the Home Office and decisions taken by the Council on the funding of the ongoing revenue monitoring and maintenance costs.

He gave details of his involvement from the outset of the contract and explained how he had been involved in all aspects of the system from concept to continual monitoring and maintenance.

Details were given of the number of cameras, the 24 hour monitoring regime, the need for registration with the Information Commissioners' Office and many other aspects. The report explained that CCTV systems were operated across all Lancashire districts including the two unitary Councils and were all funded by the hosting local authority, with no funding or financial support coming from Lancashire Constabulary.

He reminded Members of the improvements which had been provided on five Clitheroe car parks in order to open them up to more natural surveillance to aid CCTV footage.

The report also gave a breakdown of the ongoing funding which was required to finance the system and the amount of external funding which had been provided for ongoing running costs. He reminded Committee of the town centre radio scheme which linked local businesses into the CCTV system.

Finally, the report dealt with the question of the future life of the present system, especially in difficult financial times. He commented that the system would need to be renewed on a year by year basis and funding for this would need to be sought from sources other than the Council's budget.

Members broadly supported the retention of the system but were concerned about the ongoing and escalating cost of maintenance and monitoring. Questions were raised about the use of the automatic number plate recognition system and whether other agencies, notably the police and local businesses, should be asked to make a contribution towards the funding of the system.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to pursue Option 1 which was to continue with the existing regime of the Council paying all revenue costs and any future capital costs, along with Option 4 which was to retain the existing service and ask the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership to provide financial support directly from their own budgets, and Option 5 which was to invite Lancashire Constabulary again to take over the management, maintenance and operation of the system and find an alternative method of providing the Council's out of hours emergency call out service and emergency planning support. A further report on progress is to be presented at a later meeting of this Committee.

829 PETITION AGAINST DEVELOPMENT AT THE PLAY AREA/OPEN SPACE OF HIGHFIELD DRIVE, LONGRIDGE

The Street Scene Manager reported the receipt of the above petition which had been signed by 53 residents in the Fell View, Risedale Drive and Highfield Drive areas of Longridge. Both Councillors White and Hind spoke about the background to this petition which involved proposals to provide a play area for young people on land currently owned by the Borough Council at Highfield Drive, Longridge. Councillor White asked that Longridge Town Council and the Longridge Partnership be informed of the receipt of this petition.

RESOLVED: That the petition be received.

830

## FUTURE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE IN CLITHEROE, LANGHO

The Director of Community Services submitted a report on the proposal by Lancashire County Council to close the Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre in Langho. He reminded Members that in 2006, the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for sustainable development had set up a member task group to review the Council's waste management services and make recommendations on the future of the service. One of the outcomes of the review was the suggested closure of five household waste recycling centres throughout Lancashire, one of which was at Petre Arms.

Representations had been made to the Council by both Members and officers objecting to the closure of the site and offering alternative solutions to reduce operational costs. Lancashire County Council had decided that further work was needed on the proposals and a consultant had been hired to undertake a full strategic review of the centres and they withdrew their earlier recommendation to close the five sites. Officers had cause to question the methodology used by the consultants during their work on the grounds that little consultation had been undertaken with districts and other stakeholders. There were contradictory messages in relation to the criteria which the consultants had considered for the delivery of the household waste recycling centres and the Council felt that this was contradictory to the proposals for closure of some of the sites.

The problem the Council now faced was following the closure of both the Petre Arms site and the site in Padiham, householders may seek alternative methods of disposal of large items of household waste including furniture. There was concern about the burden this would place on the Council's free household collection service and also the probability of a significant increase in fly tipping. Members then discussed this report in some detail and echoed the concerns of officers.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the report; and
2. instruct officers to write to Lancashire County Council objecting to the closure of the Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre and raising concerns over the closure of Padiham Centre.

831

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PLAN 2010/2011

The Director of Community Services submitted the Community Development Service Plan 2010/2011 for Committee's consideration and approval. He commented that the key issue facing community development was that the vast majority of its services were non statutory. Given that the Council may be facing difficult financial times ahead, non statutory services were likely to be under increasing scrutiny over the next 6-9 months. In order to support Members in future decision making, a detailed options appraisal would be carried out for each budget heading and brought to Committee on an agreed cycle.

He further commented that the cost of providing community development activities would come under increasing pressure and may include the future survival of some services. It was recognised that the section did make a significant contribution to the Council's aims and priorities and that any reduction in service would affect the overall performance of the Council. Finally, he pointed out that the services provided through community development were well regarded by the local community and so any changes would be seen in a negative light.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report.

## 832 BIG LOTTERY PLAY PROJECTS

The Director of Community Services submitted an update report on three previously approved projects which had been put forward as part of the Big Lottery play initiative. These were listed as:

- mobile skate park;
- Calderstones woodland play area; and
- Longridge adventure play facility.

The total cost of the project was £244,000 with £200,000 of grant aid towards them and the remainder being funded through the capital programme.

The Community Development Manager commented that the mobile skate park was now fully operational and would begin its second summer of operation soon. Calderstones would shortly be delivered although there had been some delays with the project. In terms of the Longridge project, this was due to start from April 2010.

The mobile skate park had been fully funded from Big Lottery and the Council's contribution to the Calderstones project had been funded through the commuted sum from the original development. The Council's contribution to the Longridge project was due to be funded from the annual capital allocation for play areas. The amount included however, had been reduced from £50,000 to £20,000. Under the proposed capital allocation this would leave a £10,000 shortfall for delivering the project. There would be sufficient funds to deliver the project from 2013/2014 but this would be outside of the big lottery timescales.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report;
2. confirm its commitment to the Longridge project; and
3. request Policy and Finance Committee to transfer £10,000 from the 2013/2014 capital allocation for children's play areas into 2010/2011 to cover the costs, recognising that this would have implications further down the line.

833

## RIBBLESDALE POOL OPTIONS APPRAISALS

The Director of Community Services submitted a detailed report on the operation of Ribblesdale Pool.

The report gave details of opening times, staffing, health and safety considerations, usage and operational financial performance and the user programme for the pool.

It was recognised that wholesale closure of the pool was not an option. There were three identified options available to Committee:

- Reduction of opening hours.
- Activity expansion. Although activity expansion could significantly reduce operating costs, by doing so it would be in direct competition with Roefield and therefore dismissed as an option.
- To look again at current operations.

Members then discussed this matter in some detail particularly around the cost of operation and possible increases in charges.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and agree to pursue option 3 which would look again at the current operation of the pool particularly at revenue savings from the pool operation.

834

## CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Community Services submitted his report on the new countywide children's and young people's plan and to consider proposals for the future management of children's trust.

He explained that children's trusts had now been established in law to take the strategic lead in the future development of services for children and young people. Within Lancashire, the structure included a countywide trust cascading down the trust arrangements based on each district footprint.

In October 2009, the County Council had tabled proposals for the future governance of trust arrangements to the Lancashire Chief Executive's Group. The proposed structures included the following key posts:

- Countywide children's trust manager.
- Support managers based on each cluster.
- 12 district co-ordinators .

The County Council had asked that district Councils take responsibility for the appointment and management of each district co-ordinator along with any further support that may be required. To facilitate this, the County council had proposed the following funding/support arrangements:

- a) All districts contribute £5000 towards the county level management arrangements along with other partners such as the primary care trusts.
- b) The County Council would allocate £25,000 to each district to provide dedicated support to the local children's trust.
- c) District Councils would match the County Council through in-kind support via officer time accommodation etc.

The County Council was also asking the partners endorse the children and young peoples plan as a way to take services forward.

This matter had been discussed at the Council's Corporate Management Team and it had been agreed that the Council should agree in principle to support the County proposals provided there was a review built in to assess workloads. It was felt that wherever possible, the dedicated support should be found from within the existing workforce. This would however, require re-designating existing posts in order to demonstrate this dedicated support. It would be important that there was some existing knowledge of children and young peoples issues and so it was likely that the resource would need to come from within the community development section. It was also thought that that dedicated support would need to be provided at two levels – senior officer and admin support.

Members were concerned that these new arrangements should actually make a difference to children and young peoples lives and also concerned at the level of responsibility being taken on by the Council for very little remuneration.

RESOLVED: that Committee

- 1. note the contents of the report and supports the adoption of the children and young peoples plan; and
- 2. agrees to move forward with the Council's involvement in children's trust arrangements subject to a review in six months time.

835 SPORTS ARTS RECREATION/CULTURE GRANTS

Committee considered the report of the Community Development Manager which presented the recommendations of the working group in relation to the allocation of grants under individuals sporting excellence, individual arts excellence and recreation/culture.

He commented that the number of sporting excellence grants had been disappointing this year and this could be partly due to a number of previous applications exceeding the upper age limit.

The number of arts excellence applications had been encouraging and as these were the first such awards, the key issue had been to determine a threshold to determine excellence. Finally, he commented there had been a good range of

recreation/culture grants once again that were felt to be eligible and receive support to some degree.

He also reported on a further three applications for recreation/culture grants which had been received since the report had been written.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 with the addition of the three late applications.

#### 836 CLITHEROE – LANCASHIRE'S FOOD TOWN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report which informed Members of the recent plans for developing Clitheroe into Lancashire's first food town.

The report reminded Members of the Ribble Valley Food Trail which was created as a Ribble Valley Borough Council tourism initiative to showcase the quality food related businesses in the Ribble Valley.

The trail had been a huge success gaining national acclaim, raising the awareness and profile of the borough and winning some major accolades. The Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board were continuing with the Taste Lancashire campaign as food tourism was now high up on the agenda for the North West Development Agency. The Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board had produced a paper to outline the potential for a project for the group to consider the proposal for Clitheroe to become a food town.

A meeting had been held in February 2010 for the purpose of discussing and agreeing on a development action plan. The group had recognised potential to build on the success of the food trail, thanks to the quality of businesses across the district and therefore decided the development should be part of this wider project. Members of the group supported the idea with the overall vision and the main object of the project was to organise a significant event in 2011 such as the Clitheroe food Festival which would incorporate a press/PR launch gaining national media attention raising the profile of both Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley.

The Community Development Manager recognised that the Borough Council would undoubtedly be steering the project within his section therefore issues regarding staff time on each of the activities with some requirement to lean on other departments for assistance. The Borough Council had not allocated any funds towards this scheme and there may be some opportunity for funding from external bodies and these would be researched if it was agreed the project should go ahead. It was also important that there was buy in from Clitheroe business and Clitheroe Chamber of Trade to support the food town concept.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree in principle to take the project forward.

837

#### SALTHILL PLAY AREA, WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND PROJECTS

Committee considered a report on the progress with these schemes (minute 684 and 685 of Committee dated 12 January refer). Permission was being sought for temporary suspension of standing orders in relation to the letting of these contracts. Both projects were reported at the previous meeting of this Committee and details were given of the progress with both projects. The Salthill play area was under stringent time constraints and if the work on site was to be completed by the end of April in order to secure the necessary grant funding, the process outlined in the Council's contract procedure rules and standing orders could not be accommodated. For that reason, the Director of Community Services had discussed with the Chief Executive and the chairman, a suspension of those rules in this case in order to allow the Council to negotiate directly with a suitable local contractor a price for the work in order to get the contract completed before the end of April, so that the grant funding could be claimed. In relation to the work at Whalley Moor, the request was broadly similar in that Committee's support for a temporary suspension of the procedure was requested. However, in this case, the contract documents had been sent out to a select list of experienced contractors.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. support the suspension of contract procedure rules in relation of the letting of the contract for Salthill play area; and
2. support the suspension of contract procedure rules in relation to the compilation of the select list of tenderers for the Whalley Moor woodland project.

838

#### STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FOR RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Committee received a report on the strategic assessment for the Ribble Valley community Safety Partnership, which gave details of the CSP's main priorities for tackling crime in 2010/2011 which were as follows:

- Serious acquisitive crime.
- Substance misuse.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Violent crime.
- Criminal damage.
- Speeding in towns and villages.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

839

#### EDISFORD CHANGING ROOMS – PROGRESS UPDATE

Committee received a progress update report on the Edisford changing rooms project. The report gave a timetable which showed that the contract was due to be completed in August 2010 immediately prior to the start of the football season.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

840 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2011 AND FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2015

The Director of Resources submitted her report on the capital programme 2010/2011 and the five year capital programme 2010/2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

841 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure, tourism and arts provision.

842 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under categories 7 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

843 ATRIUM CAFÉ TENDERING

The Director of Community Services reported on the tender information received in relation to the Atrium Café and asked Committee to agree the appointment of a new operator. He commented that interviews had taken place on 29 January where five organisations had been invited to formally tender. On 26 February three tenders had been received which were from Food for Thought, Diamond Catering and Tribourne Catering Services Ltd. The tenders had been analysed using an agreed matrix.

Members then discussed the results of the tendering exercise in great detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. consider the recommendation of the Member Working group; and
2. agree that Food for Thought be the Council's preferred catering partner for the operation of the Atrium Café subject to the usual background checks into the company proving satisfactory.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).

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Also in attendance: Councillors K Hind, B Jones and J S Sutcliffe.

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RESOLVED: That Committee agree to pursue Option 1 which was to continue with the existing regime of the Council paying all revenue costs and any future capital costs, along with Option 4 which was to retain the existing service and ask the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership to provide financial support directly from their own budgets, and Option 5 which was to invite Lancashire Constabulary again to take over the management, maintenance and operation of the system and find an alternative method of providing the Council's out of hours emergency call out service and emergency planning support. A further report on progress is to be presented at a later meeting of this Committee.

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## FUTURE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE IN CLITHEROE, LANGHO

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RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the report; and
2. instruct officers to write to Lancashire County Council objecting to the closure of the Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre and raising concerns over the closure of Padiham Centre.

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2. confirm its commitment to the Longridge project; and
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RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and agree to pursue option 3 which would look again at the current operation of the pool particularly at revenue savings from the pool operation.

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## CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

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RESOLVED: that Committee

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recreation/culture grants once again that were felt to be eligible and receive support to some degree.

He also reported on a further three applications for recreation/culture grants which had been received since the report had been written.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 with the addition of the three late applications.

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The report reminded Members of the Ribble Valley Food Trail which was created as a Ribble Valley Borough Council tourism initiative to showcase the quality food related businesses in the Ribble Valley.

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The Community Development Manager recognised that the Borough Council would undoubtedly be steering the project within his section therefore issues regarding staff time on each of the activities with some requirement to lean on other departments for assistance. The Borough Council had not allocated any funds towards this scheme and there may be some opportunity for funding from external bodies and these would be researched if it was agreed the project should go ahead. It was also important that there was buy in from Clitheroe business and Clitheroe Chamber of Trade to support the food town concept.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree in principle to take the project forward.

837

#### SALTHILL PLAY AREA, WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND PROJECTS

Committee considered a report on the progress with these schemes (minute 684 and 685 of Committee dated 12 January refer). Permission was being sought for temporary suspension of standing orders in relation to the letting of these contracts. Both projects were reported at the previous meeting of this Committee and details were given of the progress with both projects. The Salthill play area was under stringent time constraints and if the work on site was to be completed by the end of April in order to secure the necessary grant funding, the process outlined in the Council's contract procedure rules and standing orders could not be accommodated. For that reason, the Director of Community Services had discussed with the Chief Executive and the chairman, a suspension of those rules in this case in order to allow the Council to negotiate directly with a suitable local contractor a price for the work in order to get the contract completed before the end of April, so that the grant funding could be claimed. In relation to the work at Whalley Moor, the request was broadly similar in that Committee's support for a temporary suspension of the procedure was requested. However, in this case, the contract documents had been sent out to a select list of experienced contractors.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. support the suspension of contract procedure rules in relation of the letting of the contract for Salthill play area; and
2. support the suspension of contract procedure rules in relation to the compilation of the select list of tenderers for the Whalley Moor woodland project.

838

#### STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FOR RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Committee received a report on the strategic assessment for the Ribble Valley community Safety Partnership, which gave details of the CSP's main priorities for tackling crime in 2010/2011 which were as follows:

- Serious acquisitive crime.
- Substance misuse.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Violent crime.
- Criminal damage.
- Speeding in towns and villages.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

839

#### EDISFORD CHANGING ROOMS – PROGRESS UPDATE

Committee received a progress update report on the Edisford changing rooms project. The report gave a timetable which showed that the contract was due to be completed in August 2010 immediately prior to the start of the football season.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

840 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2011 AND FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2015

The Director of Resources submitted her report on the capital programme 2010/2011 and the five year capital programme 2010/2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

841 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure, tourism and arts provision.

842 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under categories 7 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

843 ATRIUM CAFÉ TENDERING

The Director of Community Services reported on the tender information received in relation to the Atrium Café and asked Committee to agree the appointment of a new operator. He commented that interviews had taken place on 29 January where five organisations had been invited to formally tender. On 26 February three tenders had been received which were from Food for Thought, Diamond Catering and Tribourne Catering Services Ltd. The tenders had been analysed using an agreed matrix.

Members then discussed the results of the tendering exercise in great detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. consider the recommendation of the Member Working group; and
2. agree that Food for Thought be the Council's preferred catering partner for the operation of the Atrium Café subject to the usual background checks into the company proving satisfactory.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).

## Minutes of Community Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 9 March 2010 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
S Farnsworth	I Sayers
J Hill	G Scott
S Hore	M Sutcliffe
L Rimmer	J White

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Street Scene Manager and Community Development Manager.

Also in attendance: Councillors K Hind, B Jones and J S Sutcliffe.

### 825 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Geldard and A Yearling.

### 826 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 were approved as a correct record subject to the number on minute 777 being amended to minute 667, these were then approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 827 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chairman welcomed Police Sergeant Mick Dixon, who spoke in favour of the retention of the Clitheroe and Whalley CCTV system. He cited numerous examples of how CCTV had helped the police apprehend criminals and solved crimes within Clitheroe and Whalley town centre. He commented that CCTV was used on a daily basis by the police and he referred to current reductions of 10% in crime across the Ribble Valley, some of which must be attributable to CCTV.

### 828 CLITHEROE AND WHALLEY CCTV SYSTEM

The Director of Community Services referred to minute 677 of Committee dated 12 January 2010 and submitted a detailed report tracing the history of the present CCTV system in Clitheroe and Whalley, its funding by the Home Office and decisions taken by the Council on the funding of the ongoing revenue monitoring and maintenance costs.

He gave details of his involvement from the outset of the contract and explained how he had been involved in all aspects of the system from concept to continual monitoring and maintenance.

Details were given of the number of cameras, the 24 hour monitoring regime, the need for registration with the Information Commissioners' Office and many other aspects. The report explained that CCTV systems were operated across all Lancashire districts including the two unitary Councils and were all funded by the hosting local authority, with no funding or financial support coming from Lancashire Constabulary.

He reminded Members of the improvements which had been provided on five Clitheroe car parks in order to open them up to more natural surveillance to aid CCTV footage.

The report also gave a breakdown of the ongoing funding which was required to finance the system and the amount of external funding which had been provided for ongoing running costs. He reminded Committee of the town centre radio scheme which linked local businesses into the CCTV system.

Finally, the report dealt with the question of the future life of the present system, especially in difficult financial times. He commented that the system would need to be renewed on a year by year basis and funding for this would need to be sought from sources other than the Council's budget.

Members broadly supported the retention of the system but were concerned about the ongoing and escalating cost of maintenance and monitoring. Questions were raised about the use of the automatic number plate recognition system and whether other agencies, notably the police and local businesses, should be asked to make a contribution towards the funding of the system.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to pursue Option 1 which was to continue with the existing regime of the Council paying all revenue costs and any future capital costs, along with Option 4 which was to retain the existing service and ask the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership to provide financial support directly from their own budgets, and Option 5 which was to invite Lancashire Constabulary again to take over the management, maintenance and operation of the system and find an alternative method of providing the Council's out of hours emergency call out service and emergency planning support. A further report on progress is to be presented at a later meeting of this Committee.

829            PETITION AGAINST DEVELOPMENT AT THE PLAY AREA/OPEN SPACE OF HIGHFIELD DRIVE, LONGRIDGE

The Street Scene Manager reported the receipt of the above petition which had been signed by 53 residents in the Fell View, Risedale Drive and Highfield Drive areas of Longridge. Both Councillors White and Hind spoke about the background to this petition which involved proposals to provide a play area for young people on land currently owned by the Borough Council at Highfield Drive, Longridge. Councillor White asked that Longridge Town Council and the Longridge Partnership be informed of the receipt of this petition.

RESOLVED: That the petition be received.

830

## FUTURE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE IN CLITHEROE, LANGHO

The Director of Community Services submitted a report on the proposal by Lancashire County Council to close the Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre in Langho. He reminded Members that in 2006, the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for sustainable development had set up a member task group to review the Council's waste management services and make recommendations on the future of the service. One of the outcomes of the review was the suggested closure of five household waste recycling centres throughout Lancashire, one of which was at Petre Arms.

Representations had been made to the Council by both Members and officers objecting to the closure of the site and offering alternative solutions to reduce operational costs. Lancashire County Council had decided that further work was needed on the proposals and a consultant had been hired to undertake a full strategic review of the centres and they withdrew their earlier recommendation to close the five sites. Officers had cause to question the methodology used by the consultants during their work on the grounds that little consultation had been undertaken with districts and other stakeholders. There were contradictory messages in relation to the criteria which the consultants had considered for the delivery of the household waste recycling centres and the Council felt that this was contradictory to the proposals for closure of some of the sites.

The problem the Council now faced was following the closure of both the Petre Arms site and the site in Padiham, householders may seek alternative methods of disposal of large items of household waste including furniture. There was concern about the burden this would place on the Council's free household collection service and also the probability of a significant increase in fly tipping. Members then discussed this report in some detail and echoed the concerns of officers.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the report; and
2. instruct officers to write to Lancashire County Council objecting to the closure of the Petre Arms Household Waste Recycling Centre and raising concerns over the closure of Padiham Centre.

831

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PLAN 2010/2011

The Director of Community Services submitted the Community Development Service Plan 2010/2011 for Committee's consideration and approval. He commented that the key issue facing community development was that the vast majority of its services were non statutory. Given that the Council may be facing difficult financial times ahead, non statutory services were likely to be under increasing scrutiny over the next 6-9 months. In order to support Members in future decision making, a detailed options appraisal would be carried out for each budget heading and brought to Committee on an agreed cycle.

He further commented that the cost of providing community development activities would come under increasing pressure and may include the future survival of some services. It was recognised that the section did make a significant contribution to the Council's aims and priorities and that any reduction in service would affect the overall performance of the Council. Finally, he pointed out that the services provided through community development were well regarded by the local community and so any changes would be seen in a negative light.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report.

## 832 BIG LOTTERY PLAY PROJECTS

The Director of Community Services submitted an update report on three previously approved projects which had been put forward as part of the Big Lottery play initiative. These were listed as:

- mobile skate park;
- Calderstones woodland play area; and
- Longridge adventure play facility.

The total cost of the project was £244,000 with £200,000 of grant aid towards them and the remainder being funded through the capital programme.

The Community Development Manager commented that the mobile skate park was now fully operational and would begin its second summer of operation soon. Calderstones would shortly be delivered although there had been some delays with the project. In terms of the Longridge project, this was due to start from April 2010.

The mobile skate park had been fully funded from Big Lottery and the Council's contribution to the Calderstones project had been funded through the commuted sum from the original development. The Council's contribution to the Longridge project was due to be funded from the annual capital allocation for play areas. The amount included however, had been reduced from £50,000 to £20,000. Under the proposed capital allocation this would leave a £10,000 shortfall for delivering the project. There would be sufficient funds to deliver the project from 2013/2014 but this would be outside of the big lottery timescales.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report;
2. confirm its commitment to the Longridge project; and
3. request Policy and Finance Committee to transfer £10,000 from the 2013/2014 capital allocation for children's play areas into 2010/2011 to cover the costs, recognising that this would have implications further down the line.

833

## RIBBLESDALE POOL OPTIONS APPRAISALS

The Director of Community Services submitted a detailed report on the operation of Ribblesdale Pool.

The report gave details of opening times, staffing, health and safety considerations, usage and operational financial performance and the user programme for the pool.

It was recognised that wholesale closure of the pool was not an option. There were three identified options available to Committee:

- Reduction of opening hours.
- Activity expansion. Although activity expansion could significantly reduce operating costs, by doing so it would be in direct competition with Roefield and therefore dismissed as an option.
- To look again at current operations.

Members then discussed this matter in some detail particularly around the cost of operation and possible increases in charges.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and agree to pursue option 3 which would look again at the current operation of the pool particularly at revenue savings from the pool operation.

834

## CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Community Services submitted his report on the new countywide children's and young people's plan and to consider proposals for the future management of children's trust.

He explained that children's trusts had now been established in law to take the strategic lead in the future development of services for children and young people. Within Lancashire, the structure included a countywide trust cascading down the trust arrangements based on each district footprint.

In October 2009, the County Council had tabled proposals for the future governance of trust arrangements to the Lancashire Chief Executive's Group. The proposed structures included the following key posts:

- Countywide children's trust manager.
- Support managers based on each cluster.
- 12 district co-ordinators .

The County Council had asked that district Councils take responsibility for the appointment and management of each district co-ordinator along with any further support that may be required. To facilitate this, the County council had proposed the following funding/support arrangements:

- a) All districts contribute £5000 towards the county level management arrangements along with other partners such as the primary care trusts.
- b) The County Council would allocate £25,000 to each district to provide dedicated support to the local children's trust.
- c) District Councils would match the County Council through in-kind support via officer time accommodation etc.

The County Council was also asking the partners endorse the children and young peoples plan as a way to take services forward.

This matter had been discussed at the Council's Corporate Management Team and it had been agreed that the Council should agree in principle to support the County proposals provided there was a review built in to assess workloads. It was felt that wherever possible, the dedicated support should be found from within the existing workforce. This would however, require re-designating existing posts in order to demonstrate this dedicated support. It would be important that there was some existing knowledge of children and young peoples issues and so it was likely that the resource would need to come from within the community development section. It was also thought that that dedicated support would need to be provided at two levels – senior officer and admin support.

Members were concerned that these new arrangements should actually make a difference to children and young peoples lives and also concerned at the level of responsibility being taken on by the Council for very little remuneration.

RESOLVED: that Committee

- 1. note the contents of the report and supports the adoption of the children and young peoples plan; and
- 2. agrees to move forward with the Council's involvement in children's trust arrangements subject to a review in six months time.

835 SPORTS ARTS RECREATION/CULTURE GRANTS

Committee considered the report of the Community Development Manager which presented the recommendations of the working group in relation to the allocation of grants under individuals sporting excellence, individual arts excellence and recreation/culture.

He commented that the number of sporting excellence grants had been disappointing this year and this could be partly due to a number of previous applications exceeding the upper age limit.

The number of arts excellence applications had been encouraging and as these were the first such awards, the key issue had been to determine a threshold to determine excellence. Finally, he commented there had been a good range of

recreation/culture grants once again that were felt to be eligible and receive support to some degree.

He also reported on a further three applications for recreation/culture grants which had been received since the report had been written.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the contents of the report and endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 with the addition of the three late applications.

#### 836 CLITHEROE – LANCASHIRE'S FOOD TOWN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report which informed Members of the recent plans for developing Clitheroe into Lancashire's first food town.

The report reminded Members of the Ribble Valley Food Trail which was created as a Ribble Valley Borough Council tourism initiative to showcase the quality food related businesses in the Ribble Valley.

The trail had been a huge success gaining national acclaim, raising the awareness and profile of the borough and winning some major accolades. The Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board were continuing with the Taste Lancashire campaign as food tourism was now high up on the agenda for the North West Development Agency. The Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board had produced a paper to outline the potential for a project for the group to consider the proposal for Clitheroe to become a food town.

A meeting had been held in February 2010 for the purpose of discussing and agreeing on a development action plan. The group had recognised potential to build on the success of the food trail, thanks to the quality of businesses across the district and therefore decided the development should be part of this wider project. Members of the group supported the idea with the overall vision and the main object of the project was to organise a significant event in 2011 such as the Clitheroe food Festival which would incorporate a press/PR launch gaining national media attention raising the profile of both Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley.

The Community Development Manager recognised that the Borough Council would undoubtedly be steering the project within his section therefore issues regarding staff time on each of the activities with some requirement to lean on other departments for assistance. The Borough Council had not allocated any funds towards this scheme and there may be some opportunity for funding from external bodies and these would be researched if it was agreed the project should go ahead. It was also important that there was buy in from Clitheroe business and Clitheroe Chamber of Trade to support the food town concept.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree in principle to take the project forward.

837

#### SALTHILL PLAY AREA, WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND PROJECTS

Committee considered a report on the progress with these schemes (minute 684 and 685 of Committee dated 12 January refer). Permission was being sought for temporary suspension of standing orders in relation to the letting of these contracts. Both projects were reported at the previous meeting of this Committee and details were given of the progress with both projects. The Salthill play area was under stringent time constraints and if the work on site was to be completed by the end of April in order to secure the necessary grant funding, the process outlined in the Council's contract procedure rules and standing orders could not be accommodated. For that reason, the Director of Community Services had discussed with the Chief Executive and the chairman, a suspension of those rules in this case in order to allow the Council to negotiate directly with a suitable local contractor a price for the work in order to get the contract completed before the end of April, so that the grant funding could be claimed. In relation to the work at Whalley Moor, the request was broadly similar in that Committee's support for a temporary suspension of the procedure was requested. However, in this case, the contract documents had been sent out to a select list of experienced contractors.

RESOLVED: That Committee

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2. support the suspension of contract procedure rules in relation to the compilation of the select list of tenderers for the Whalley Moor woodland project.

838

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- Violent crime.
- Criminal damage.
- Speeding in towns and villages.

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841 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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843 ATRIUM CAFÉ TENDERING

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The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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