

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter

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Making Plans "A goal without a plan is just a wish."

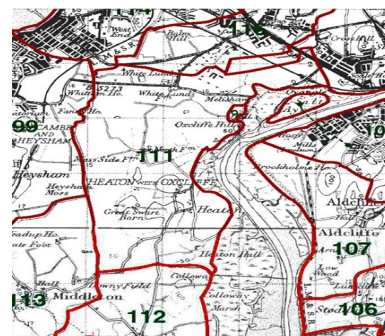
WELCOME to this second issue of the Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter! This Newsletter is being distributed to residents, businesses and organisations located within the area that the Council serves to inform them about its work and responsibilities. Read on because the Council deals with important local matters that may have an impact on your life and concerns.

Developing the Heaton with Oxcliffe Council Plan

In Issue 1 we highlighted that in order to be fully effective we needed a Council Plan setting out our planned outcomes and actions over the next three years (2014 to 2017) that would aim to address the issues facing our local community, seek to improve the area we live in and deliver the services our residents want.

Developing this plan has been the major activity for the Council in the first few months of 2014 involving, amongst other things:

- ◆ consideration of the major current and future issues facing the local area and the opportunities to address them;
- ◆ an analysis of the economic, social and environmental demographics and characteristics of our area, and;
- ◆ a review of how the Council has spent its money over the last three years



Map of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe



Based on this, the Council has determined that it should develop priority outcomes around **reducing fly-tipping; improving our local environment and its attractiveness; ensuring our roads, paths and footways are safe and well maintained; supporting the needs of our vulnerable residents; developing community facilities and events, and; improving flood risk management.**

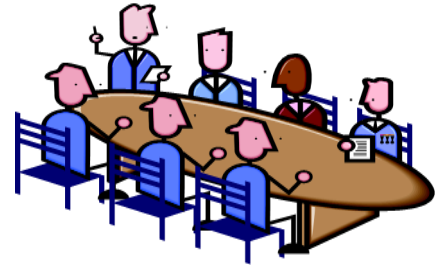
With this in mind, the Council has developed its first draft of the key actions, activities and projects it plans to undertake and support to deliver these outcomes. This document entitled **HEATON-WITH-OXCLIFFE COUNCIL DRAFT PLAN 2014-17** should have been delivered with this Newsletter.

We are now inviting residents, businesses, community groups and other interested organisations to comment on the draft plan. This is your opportunity to shape our community in the future and we encourage you to take advantage of this by contacting the Clerk (see contact details at the top and bottom of this Newsletter).

Consultation on these plans will end on **31 July 2014**, with the aim of the final Plan being published in September.

Annual Meeting of Heaton with Oxcliffe Council and Annual Report 2013/14

On May 14th the Annual Meeting of the Council was held at Grosvenor Park School. This meeting is an opportunity for the Council to report on what it has done in the previous year, what it is doing now and what it plans to do in the coming year(s). The meeting is open to residents, community groups and other organisations and is an opportunity to discuss community matters.



The Annual Meeting of the Council is held in May each year. During the meeting councillors elect the Chair and Deputy Chair for the coming year, review insurance and risk management arrangements, approve the asset register and agree dates for the following municipal year. The Chair for 2014/15 is Councillor Mr William Lyon and the Deputy Chair is Councillor Mr Steven Edmondson.

At the Annual Meeting, the Annual Report for 2013/14 was presented. This report outlined the Council's achievements, and challenges over the last year, and included a summary of our finances and our plans for the future. The outgoing Chair, Councillor Mrs Margaret Baxter, reflected that it had been a good and progressive year. She looked forward positively to both the opportunities and challenges facing the Council and its ambition to develop into an active, quality council that engages with, and represents effectively, our community and the well-being of our residents.



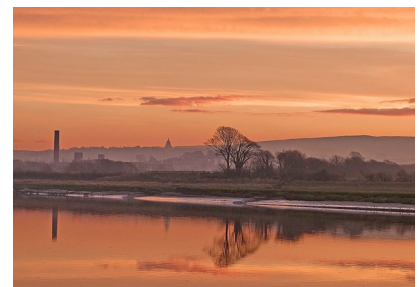
Referring, in particular, to the development of the Council Plan, Councillor Baxter said that this is a real chance for the Council, its residents, local businesses and community groups to shape the future of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe. She commented that the Council wants to support local action to deliver real benefits in the community and to work jointly with Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council, Grosvenor Park School and other public and private sector organisations in achieving our goals over the next three years.

Did you know?

There is now a simple and easy way to report, view and discuss local problems such as fly-tipping; potholes; graffiti, broken paving slabs, overhanging trees and a whole host of other every day problems through a great new website called *FixMyStreet* (www.fixmystreet.com). There are just three simple steps to follow:

- 1) Enter a nearby postcode; street name or area;
- 2) Locate the problem on the map of the area provided;
- 3) Enter details/description of the problem and hit Go

Once you have done that *Fixmystreet* will automatically send the problem to either Lancaster City or Lancashire County Council for the problem(s) to be addressed. *Fixmystreet* will also send updates/reminders of any matter that has not been dealt with. On the website you can also check out the status of report issues and see what problems have been reported in the area. The Clerk will monitor these, on behalf of the Council and follow up any matters as necessary.



You can now follow us on Facebook at Heaton with Oxcliffe PC. We welcome any comments on the work of the Council and want to hear from you about any matters that you wish the Council to consider.

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