



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR ROGER FROST

DATE OF REPORT: 16th DECEMBER 2010

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

PL1 Revitalised communities and balanced housing markets	
Action	Progress
PL1b: Engage residents in the redevelopment of their neighbourhoods.	The Council will continue to engage with residents in the redevelopment of their neighbourhoods. The 'Drop-in' sessions for the Area Action Plans (AAPs), organised for November, have been completed.
PL3 More Sustainable Environment and Neighbourhoods	
Action	Progress
PL3a: Achieve high energy efficiency ratings for all new homes and buildings	No significant new housing development applications have been received since my last update. An 'outline application' has been received for a site by the canal, off Finsley Gate, but, as the application is indicative rather than detailed, matters about energy efficiency are for a later date. They will be addressed at that time.
PL3b: Improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and help tackle climate change	<p>Work is continuing with the CRISP insulation Scheme. 500 households have had surveys completed. Loft or cavity wall insulation has been completed on 300 properties. The cost involved is £28K.</p> <p>The Burnley Heating Rebate Scheme has so far approved 80 jobs at a cost of £25K. Also, because £1,500 per project has been made</p>

	<p>available, 18 householders will be able to install new efficient heating systems in their properties.</p> <p>The above schemes are to be commended but with greater resources, if they were available, much more could be achieved.</p>
<p>PL3d: Promote the use of alternative modes of transport</p>	<p>Padiham Greenway: This has been one of the considerable environmental successes of recent years and the work completed, so far, is much appreciated by residents of the Borough, especially those in Padiham. The project is managed as a partnership in which the LCC has taken the lead but our officers have been very much involved. I would want, in particular, to mention the role of the schools in the west of the Borough. I visited one primary school to see what opportunities the project had presented to them. They were very knowledgeable about the Padiham Greenway and had enjoyed the experience of being so thoroughly involved. Experiences like this will make good citizens of our children. Phase Two of the project is currently undergoing design and clearance work.</p> <p>Brun Valley/Queens Park Link: This project is now completed. It consists of access routes through semi-rural parts of the Borough, which are close to high density residential areas. The facilities are open to all but it is important that every part of the Borough, so far as is possible, has access not only to formal parks but also to green areas where cycling, walking, equestrian activities, etc, can be pursued safely. The Brun Valley project fits in with the Brun Valley Park/Forest Park Project which is being developed by officers in Green Spaces.</p> <p>Sweetclough Greenway: Work for this project is now out to tender, with a view to a start being made in January 2011. (I will inform Members about this project in my next Report to Council).</p>

PR2 Firmly establish Burnley as a key retail and service centre in Pennine Lancashire	
Action	Progress
PR2c: Promote the viability and visibility of the Town Centre	<p>Burnley Towntalk: Recently the focus of Markets and Town Centre colleagues has been on providing facilities for website development for independent retailers. A unit in the Market Hall has been set aside and geared up for this and it is seen as very much part of the future for everyone in the retail sector. Over 80,000 hits per week are being seen on 'Burnley Towntalk' but much work remains to be done.</p> <p>Christmas Lights: I do not need to remind Members of the importance of the Christmas Season for Burnley's town centre traders. Burnley faces increasing competition from other centres where work has been completed (Bury), is on-going (Blackburn) and has been announced (Preston) and the successful promotion of what we have to offer in our town is very significant. This was achieved on Sunday, 21st November, at the Annual Switch-on event, when a large crowd, comprising people of all ages, enjoyed a splendid event and footfall was up by 40% on a usual Sunday at this time of the year.</p>
Additional Commentary	
Market Update	<p>Market Hall: Footfall in the Market Hall saw some slight improvement in September and October but it has slipped back a little in November. This may have had something to do with the poor weather.</p> <p>Trading Conditions: Business, for many traders, remains difficult (including that for a number of independent retailers in the town centre). Traders are continually encouraged to move towards using the internet as an alternative enquiry and sales generator. Five traders have recently made use of the transactional website provided.</p> <p>Occupancy Rates: These remain high at 93%. New firms in the Market Hall include a key cutter/shoe mender and a Garra Rufa fish pedicure treatment operation! This latter is something very different to what has been offered before.</p>

	<p>Scores on the Doors: Work is about to start on a scheme, which I have wanted to see introduced since I have held this portfolio. I have seen the scheme in operation in other towns and, briefly, it informs the shopping public of the standards reached by all food retailers operating in the Borough. All such establishments will be required to carry details of their assessments, usually on the doors of the establishment. This can only lead to higher standards in all areas of food retailing and should be applauded by everyone.</p>
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