

# A New Deal for Bradford District

Tuesday 10 February 2015, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Clayton Village Hall

Reva Syke Road, Clayton, Bradford, BD14 6QN



## EVENT SUMMARY

This event was one in a series of public meetings to be held across the district to start a conversation between the public sector and local people.

The session was led by Cllr Dave Green, Leader of Bradford Council who highlighted the financial challenges facing the Council and other public services and the need for local people and organisations to strike a New Deal for our district together.

The slides from the presentation will be circulated alongside this report.

## Group Exercise: What should we focus on?

The photographs below show the outcome from the discussions, the purpose from which was not to reach a consensus but to share views on the allocation of resources.



Examples of some of the comments made during the exercise are outlined below.

- It was felt that a training and vocational centre of excellence needed developing within the district.
- It was felt that the Council, the Colleges and the Chamber of Commerce should take a lead on developing the skills and education of young people.
- It was agreed that excellent partnership working is required by the different key organisations in the district for future development of the district.
- Some participants thought that organisations need to stop working in silos and need to look for new solutions collectively.
- It was suggested that young people no longer attend youth clubs or places where young people can meet and interact.
- It was suggested that older people's support services need to be prioritised to ensure that the elderly receive good quality care.
- It was agreed by some that there needs to be a change in culture and people's mindset and behaviours to do things differently. More people need to take pride in their own community.
- A suggestion was made that other means of income generation should be considered, for example charging people for the use of libraries and swimming pools.

## **Group Discussion: The New Deal and You**

Participants had a variety of views which are captured through the following points.

### **1. What matters most to you, for your family and for your local area?**

- Many participants felt that the number of school places and the quality of schools was of paramount importance in their immediate areas.
- It was felt that lack of access to health services and doctors surgeries in local areas is an issue. In some communities the waiting times at many GP practices to obtain an appointment is very long.
- It was agreed that living in a safe environment was a high priority for many people.
- A number of participants felt that communities living in harmony with one another was important.
- It was felt that there were still some issues with gritting roads, especially in a place like Clayton.
- It was felt that open and recreational spaces enhance the lives of people living in the 'Clayton Village' area. These areas therefore need to be well maintained, activity which could be done by volunteers and the Parish Council.
- It was felt that there was a lack of street cleansing in the district and that the quality of streets is not very good with many potholes across the district.
- It was suggested more good quality houses need to be built which are both sustainable and good in design. An appealing environment would attract more people to move into the district.
- Many felt that local libraries are very important to local communities and these facilities have been very well maintained by the Council. They were considered as 'civic services' and are useful because of the educational links and free internet services.

- Traffic management was an issue raised by one group of participants. It was suggested that controlling traffic volume should be explored and relevant measures put in place to combat congestion.

## **2. What things matter less and could be stopped or changed?**

- It was felt that there should be more awareness raising and promotion of recycling, especially the introduction of fortnightly bin collection. It was also suggested that the privatisation or commissioning of refuse collection should be explored.
- It was agreed by some participants that there should be a stop to household waste recycling permits – many felt that this was a costly initiative and suggested that anyone who pays Council Tax should automatically be allowed to use the household recycling centres.
- It was suggested that there should be a reduction in the hours when street lights are kept on; an alternative suggestion was to dim the lights.
- There was agreement by some participants that more could be done to bring empty shops back into use, other initiatives could be considered alongside trying to get local community groups to take responsibility for them. It was also suggested that some shops could be used for exhibitions rather than being empty and creating an eyesore.

## **3. What could you and other people do differently to help?**

- It was suggested that individuals and communities should do more volunteering work, but would need more support from formal organisations.
- It was felt that more people should get involved with their village halls and churches and other faith institutions.
- It was felt that communities should undertake collective litter picks in their community.
- It was suggested that the responsibility for the maintenance of grass verges and hedges should be transferred to individuals and homeowners.
- It was felt that there should be more car sharing initiatives introduced and their use encouraged. There could also be more promotion and consequent use of public transport. This could include awareness raising and promotion of a cycling policy – similar to that in Amsterdam.
- It was suggested that more awareness raising and training around recycling and its benefits should be introduced to change people's behaviour.
- It was felt that there was a need to educate residents and increase awareness of litter and dog fouling. It was suggested that there are greater enforcement powers and fines imposed.
- It was felt that more local grants could be handed down from Parish Councils to support community groups to increase and deliver local services.
- It was agreed that local activities such as litter picking, gritting and cleaning parks could be undertaken by local communities and this in turn could build community spirit through the various activities. It should be made fun and self-policed, with the concept of 'street leaders' suggested.