



Autumn of Action event: St Matthew's  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2011



**Group name:** Alley Cats

**Session:** 1

**Topic:** Back Alleys

**Convener:** Jennifer

**Who was there? (list names):**

Carol, Silma, Bob, Joan

**Main points of the discussion:**

- Excess household rubbish / dog fouling
- Lack of household recycling or awareness
- Creating health hazards
- Fortnightly collections
- Council charges for removing 'bulky' waste items
- Could be safe places for children to play
- Most alleys are gated so local residents responsible
- Residents misuse / don't look after them
- Attracts fly-tipping if gates left unlocked
- More penalties needed for 'offenders'
- More reward or recognition for well-kept back alleys
- Some alleys being used by local businesses e.g. car repairs
- More alley ways need to be gated – there are some 'gaps'

**Recommendations / conclusions (green dots = considered most important):**

- More available information about recycling
- ●● More enforcement and penalties for repeat 'offenders'
- Residents should monitor and report incidents – zero tolerance
- Landlords should provide information for all new tenants
- No dogs allowed – only rats!
- ● Residents need to take more responsibility for their household waste and disposal and recycling
- We should all be 'good neighbours' and advice people about bin collections / recycling etc
- ● We should set standards and expectations of our neighbours
- Put a stop to businesses misusing alleys for car repairs – report incidents to the council

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving?**

- 1) Recycling awareness campaign, which includes easy access to bins etc
- 2) Community clean ups and residents on-going monitoring
- 3) Lobby the council to lift bulky waste charges for low income households

**Red dots (it's important, and I want to be involved): ●●**

Jennifer

Bob

**Group name:** Litter Tacklers

**Session:** 1

**Topic:**

Litter problems / solutions

**Convener:**

**Who was there? (list names):**

Paul, Gretta, Silma, Jason, Charles

**Main points of the discussion:**

1. Permits to tips at no costs
2. Pick-up points
3. How often?
4. Reclaiming building / accessibility

**Recommendations / conclusions (green dots = considered most important):**

- Incentives
- Picking up discarded appliances and weighing it in for scrap
- Council supervision
- Education
- Get involved with other / voluntary groups: scouts
- Pool resources with other groups

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving?**

- 1) Litter picking campaign run by residents and children wearing fluorescent vests printed with “I also live here” (or “I also live in Fishwick / St Matthew’s / etc”)
- 2) Organise a trailer
- 3) Recruit volunteers

**Red dots (it’s important, and I want to be involved): ●●**

Bob

Grete

Jennifer

**Group name:** Rabbit

**Session:** 1

**Topic:** 24 hour prayer /counselling centre/open door/all age/religion

**Convener:** Mabel Rodrigues

**Who was there? (list names):** Nicola Greene

**Main points of the discussion:**

1. People on the streets
2. Poverty
3. prostitution
4. place to stay till they can move
5. prayer and counselling
6. provision
7. Point of Contact

**Recommendations / conclusions (green dots = considered most important):**

- Establish a community centre
- Work with the voluntary groups/council/preston Fm/Churches-Net working
- Planning /Strategies/name/Resource
- Moving on place or jobs
- Guidance to overcome habits, like drugs, alcohol, abuse
- Warmth, hot drink, protection, Bed and breakfast
- Mobilization of the whole city in the moving forward in health, prosperity, good neighbourhood

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving?**

1. ● Locate a centre for free, locate funding
2. Establish volunteers
3. ●●● Provide resources / training

**Red dots (it's important, and I want to be involved): ●●**

**Group name:** FOFS

**Session:** 1

**Topic:** Traffic Problems

**Convener:** Bob and Joan

**Who was there? (list names):** Bob, Joan, Jennifer, Carol, David

**Main points of the discussion:**

- Car congestion and busy main roads
- Parking difficulties for residents and shoppers
- Difficulties in crossing New Hall Lane for the young and the elderly

Mixing residences and businesses in the same areas causes problems with car congestion and dangerous walking conditions, for example:

- Ignoring one-way systems
- Ignoring 20 mph speed restrictions
- Repairing cars in back alleys and on footpaths
- Disregard for residents

**Recommendations / conclusions (from Bob) (green dots = considered most important):**

- More car parking facilities for residents and shoppers
- The removal of many unnecessary double yellow lines on New Hall Lane
- More small island crossing points on busy main roads like New Hall Lane

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving (Bob)?**

- 1) ● Contact local council and county council about above and request some action (e.g., need parking bays for shoppers and permits or parking for residents)
- 2) ● Involve as many local people as possible who agree with the above to form a group to pursue a solution
- 3) Publicise activity (activities) in the local press

**Recommendations / conclusions (from Joan) (green dots = considered most important):**

- More police involvement with traffic offences
- More consideration from businesses with regards to residents
- Keeping back alleys clear and not using them as part of their businesses
- Businesses non leaving rubbish littering the streets
- Parking over dropped kerb areas cause problems for disabled people and those with pushchairs and prams

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving (Joan)?**

- 1) Get the police involved more with traffic offences
- 2) Make businesses aware of the “agro” they cause in the area
- 3) Have the planning and environment check the area for safety and proper use of the planning permission

**Red dots (it's important, and I want to be involved): ●●●●●**

David  
Bob  
Phillip

**Group name:** Rabbit

**Session:** 2

**Topic:** Park Improvement

**Convener:**

**Who was there? (list names):**

Silma, Bob, Carol, Grete

**Main points of the discussion:**

- How to improve Ribbleton Park facilities for people with
- Dog monitoring – young families , dog dirt and dangerous dogs to stay on leads
- Designated picnic area
- Story telling for children and plays for children (planned activities)
- Full time park ranger and to get the green flag once again
- Community worker to be at the park once a week
- Friday night football day/night
- Sun
- Concert
- Music festival
- Small scale events
- Treasure hunt
- Firework display bonfire night barbeque

**Recommendations / conclusions (green dots = considered most important):**

- To lobby Council and local councilors and to improve park facilities
- Involve as many local people as possible to improve facilities
- Designated car park for football (Sunday mornings) OR sign up in park to stop footballers from parking in the park
- Council to consider Ribbleton park for events/community events in order to get community together

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving?**

- 1) Contact Council to get more involved
- 2) ●● Residents to get more involved to become members of FOFS to form local groups to liaise with the council
- 3) Residents group to liaise with the park ranger and the community engagement officer to get things up and running

**Red dots (it's important, and I want to be involved): ●●●**

Grete

Silma

Bob

**Group name:**

**Session: 2**

**Topic:** Community Centre – Multifunctional and responsive to local need

**Convener:** Jason and Nicola

**Who was there? (list names):** Jason, Nicola, David, Mabel, Jennifer, Silma, Bob, Grete

**Main points of the discussion:**

- Need to find out what people want
- Existing buildings need to be accessible and functional eg. Lighting/ different services/support/options/opportunities
- Acknowledge complex needs and family circumstances
- Different support services at a neighborhood level – informal/volunteers
- ‘Specialisms’ needed to support the above eg. relationships, parenting, young people
- Utilise existing community ‘leaders’ in more ‘legitimate’ leadership practices
- Make services and activities attractive and relevant
- Find out what people need and draw on existing skills and talents

**Recommendations / conclusions (green dots = considered most important):**

- Training facility and opportunities
- Find out the existing skills/strengths of the area
- Build upon community assets – look at what can be developed
- Empower people to take some ownership
- Seek out partners and specialism
- Stay solution focused
- Intergenerational activities and projects are important/cohesion
- Everybody has something to offer
- Need FREE community centre – run by the community - creates a safe place

**What are the three small, practical, next steps to get this moving?**

- 1) ●●●● Identify FREE premises and sponsorship
- 2) ●●●● Community consultation events: young people/older people/families in the neighbourhood
- 3) ● Develop local plan and publicity involving local people, partners, councillor

**Red dots (it's important, and I want to be involved):**



Paul  
Grete  
Silma  
Jennifer  
Jason  
Nicola  
Bob

## Closing comments

- I have enjoyed today, meeting everyone it feels like the start of a good thing, I want to be involved.
- It's been great to see people coming together - there has been a great sense of humility , a great foundation this coming together
- I don't think we will get anywhere without the buy in of Preston Council. Despite our good intentions
- As the only representative of the council ! It's been good to clarify ideas and people – a very positive day
- Thank you to everyone for coming. I have been impressed with the good ideas and look forward to coming back together to do things.
- I opened the letter and thought there is something going on here. St Mathews is one of the most let down boroughs in Preston. Maybe councillors will be able to come and listen to people here.
- It's a good start isn't it!
- From FOFS point of view i can see a good partnership developing with the heritage church. I can see the same people and faces absolutely determined to make things happen. Surely it won't be long before we see things happen.
- We got a lot of ideas out today
- Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world- it's the only thing that has done anyway.
- FOFS do have councillors on their board - councillors do buy in
- What happens next?
- 2 more events at Deesdale and Ribble

- We will get in touch with people who have put their names against things they are prepared to be involved in, after the third event, and ask those groups to come back with more worked up proposals, developed ideas by mid November.