

Don Smallwood's Column September 2008.

Over the years our annual festival has enjoyed lovely sunny weather. In this period of very bad dismal rainy days it was certainly a worry. It was a relief to see the sun making a rare appearance during the four day event. This year's festival has been described the best ever and is reward to the hard work in organising the event. The many problems that have to be faced in order that everything runs smoothly on the day are very large. One very important factor of this annual event is that it publicises our 'flagship' project the Freedom Centre and introduces the facility to many from outside Preston Road. If you need more information on the activities taking place in the Centre ring 710100. One weekly event that is designed for the community is the bingo evenings every Tuesday evening you will be very welcome and the event really needs your support.

At long last after months and months of delay the building of the sports facility is now well under way. A sports forum will be launched on the completion of the facility that is situated at the rear of Foredyke Primary School and the Flinton Regeneration Centre. When the plans for this multi-sports facility were placed it was envisaged to cover every sport and not just the National sports of Football and Rugby. In order to explore the possibility of embracing minority sports please contact me on 711723. Due to lack of space some sports Cricket, Baseball, etc, would require large playing areas. By use of nets and coaches they could be included. Whatever your sport is please contact me and we could explore the possibility of inclusion in the programme. In recent years the recognition of ladies in sport has spread and this facility should serve every one of all ages and both sexes.

The end of the ten-year regeneration programme is reached in 2010, many meetings are being held to secure the future of the benefits gained over the period of regeneration. Preston Road Neighbourhood Development Company (PRNDC) will continue after 2010 with a board of Trustees. To meet this challenge it is very important to have a strong active Residents Association. At present the Association is based at the Community House Craven Lea, Endeavour Crescent, to receive more information on the activities of the Association telephone 714458, Volunteers are needed to assist in helping to keep the facility open.

Over the regeneration programme rumours circulate the area that is unfounded and certainly not true. If you have any doubts on any issue please contact me and by that method we can stamp out these rumours that are very disruptive to our regeneration. On all matters regarding Your Ward Southcoates East please come and visit your two elected Councillors Tom McVie and David Gemmell at the Craven Lea Community House, 6.30pm on the first Monday in every month, the next being October 6th. November 3rd and December 1st. Both Councillors will over a coffee accept all complaints and suggestions in an informal manner and will forward to the department who can deal with the matter. Whilst not being able to guarantee the answer to every question they will pursue all matters. It is your opportunity to make your Council aware of any problems, don't miss this opportunity.

Don Smallwood.