

## **ASTLEY BRIDGE AREA FORUM**

Meeting – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Present – 19 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Hilary Fairclough	Astley Bridge Ward
Councillor Paul Wild (Chair)	Astley Bridge Ward
Councillor John Walsh	Astley Bridge Ward

### Also in attendance

Val Cloynes	Area Co-ordinator
Jeanette Pemberton-Billing	Area Working Support Officer
Jane Bickerstaffe	Area Working Support Officer
Andrew Kilpatrick	Area Forum Chief Officer
Ian Taylor	Environmental Services
Inspector Wayne Readfern	Greater Manchester Police
PC Rob Barton	Greater Manchester Police
Sharon Pendlebury	Community Safety

An apology was received from David Crausby MP

Councillor Paul Wild in the Chair

## **25. INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Paul Wild welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Officers.

## **26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

## **27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Further to Minute 21, Inspector Wayne Readfern gave a short update on recent Police activity. Following an increase in lead thefts and burglaries, Police partnership activity had resulted in several offenders being identified and apprehended, and there had been a consequent reduction in offences. Inspector Readfern also spoke about opportunist burglars and offered advice on home security. He informed the Forum that residents could access a Police Twitter account to find out about local issues, and reminded people to use the new 101 non-emergency telephone number to report issues of local concern. PC Rob Barton then outlined arrangements for the community walk

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **28. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

The Chair introduced Andrew Kilpatrick, Area Forum Chief Officer who gave a presentation on how Bolton would celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and Bolton 2012, including information about organising street parties. The Council had made it easier for people to close off roads by making it free to do so if they applied by mid April. Further information would be available on the Council website and in Bolton Scene about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Torch Relay.

Councillor Wild added that Astley Bridge Councillors had set aside an amount of money to contribute towards street parties, if residents wished to apply for support and let Councillors know of their plans.

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, there would also be a schools' art project which would result in large paintings being displayed along Moss Bank Way during the Bank Holiday weekend. Councillors were also looking into a possible garden

competition, and a Jubilee beacon at Horrocks Fold Farm.

A number of questions and comments were made which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **29. BUDGET UPDATE**

Val Cloynes, Area Co-ordinator, summarised the budgets available to the Area Forum for 2011/2012:

- Highways Maintenance budget - £9,600
- Area Forum Budget - £17,625 including £10,000 Airport Dividend
  - £150 so far received in sponsorship towards the Christmas lights event in 2011
- Targeted Forum Budget - £3,228
- Voluntary Sector Grant – balance remaining £1,420
  - Bid for £500 for gazebos from Eagley Bank Fundraisers

Members agreed to allocate £300 to Eagley Bank Fundraisers for gazebos

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **30. LICENSING POLICY REVIEW**

The Chair then read a statement to the forum about the Council consultation exercise regarding Licensing legislation, and said that people could access the website at:

[www.bolton.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/licensing) and go to the Licensing Act 2003.

The closing date for consultation was 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

Resolved – That the statement be noted.

### 30. QUESTIONS

Q.1. There was a request for 2 lamps to be removed as they were obstructing the pavement on Moss Bank Way near the bowling green	A.1. Ian Taylor, Environmental Services would look into the matter and report back to the next area forum.
Q.2. What was happening to Astley Bridge Library?	A.2. Councillor Fairclough said a bid had been allowed to go forward, and would inform the area forum of the full details at the next meeting.
Q.3. Where were the highest levels of older people in and around Bolton? Why were most activities for older people in the central wards?	A.3. Andrew Kilpatrick said that they mainly lived in the Central Wards, so activities were more centrally-based, using deprivation funding
Q.4. Was Broad o'th' Lane to be resurfaced?	Broad o'th' Lane was not in the programme, although Bar Lane was being improved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

### 31. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Paul Wild thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Astley Bridge Area Forum would be after the elections in May at a time and venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.00pm)